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TO OUR READERS:

In compliance with the Israeli military authorities, and under the guise of the much criticized "Emergency Regulations" of 1945, Al-Fajr is required to submit all material prepared for publication in this weekly, and also in the Arabic Daily and Bi-Weekly Hebrew Edition, to the Israeli censorship authorities, who use this blanket authority excessively. The material appearing on pages labeled with letters has all been censored and expunged by the Israeli authorities. We found it necessary and relevant to publish it on these pages in the foreign edition.

AFTER TROOPS SIEGE CAMPUS

BETHLEHEM U. CLOSED FOR TWO MONTHS

Israeli occupation authorities closed Bethlehem University for two months, November 2, after a week of conflict between occupation forces and the Palestinian university students. The clashes peaked when the Israeli army trapped 350 students a day earlier. The military governor of Bethlehem gave the order signed by military coordinator of the occupied territories Binyamin Ben Eliezer to Dr Anton Sansour, executive vice president, and Vice Chancellor Brother Thomas Scanlon. The university was ordered shut for 60 days. Ben Eliezer accused students of organising a cultural festival, which included "inciting material" with "the foreknowledge of the administration."

Scanlon was quoted in the *Jerusalem Post* as saying the two-month closure was "the most severe in the university's history. Since I believe the military are totally responsible for this round of unrest, the closure is more unjustified than ever."

Soldiers at checkpoints prevented students from getting to classes, November 1, after the three-day strike which had been called to protest the detention of eight members of the students council.

Clashes soon developed between the 30 soldiers and students who threw stones and empty bottles at them. Reinforcements were called, and students were forced onto the campus by volleys of tear gas canisters and water cannons. The university was then besieged for the rest of the day.. . . . . .

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Around 5:00 pm the students agreed to leave. They were let out in groups of four or five and had their names, ID numbers and addresses registered.

Musa Darwish, head of the public relation department of Bethlehem University, told *Al Fajr* that the university has not yet revived from the heavy blows of the closure last year. He predicted that students would lose at least next year's summer course.

In March 1983 Bethlehem University was closed for 22 days after student demonstrations during a visit by ex-US President Jimmy Carter to the town. One year earlier Bethlehem University was closed for a month.

Darwish told *Al Fajr* that "there have been countless incidents in which the university was unofficially closed by soldiers stationed outside the campus entrances preventing students and faculty from getting in."

A similar blockade was enforced, October 31.

Bethlehem University students declared a three-day strike, October 28, to protest the detention of eight members of the student council and the arrest and interrogation of 11 others. A day earlier all members of the student council and the secretaries and some members of council committees were summoned to local police headquarters by military order. They were interrogated on alleged "inciting materials" and a Palestinian flag, which soldiers had taken from a Palestinian folklore exhibition at the university, a week earlier. Israeli troops confiscated the material for which students are being charged in a midnight raid of the exhibit October 21. It included books, tapes, maps and posters.

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Boy Shot, Widespread Curfews in Balfour Day Confrontation

A 19-year-old Palestinian was shot, Bethlehem University was closed for two months, two UNRWA-run preparatory schools were closed for a week and seven Palestinian refugee camps and central Nablus were curfewed, November 2, as the Israeli occupation forces escalated the confrontation with West Bankers for the first time in some months.

November 2, the 66th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration promoting settlement in Palestine, is a traditional day of protest. A general strike was partially successful. In Jerusalem, the only area in the West Bank where military law is still in force, almost all businesses were closed. In other parts of the occupied territories most stores were open. Virtually all schools and all institutions of higher education struck. The strike in Gaza city was described as "partial."

The most serious incident occurred in Sa'ir, the Hebron district. Nabil Amir Jaradat, 19, was shot in the hand when Israeli soldiers opened fire on demonstrating local students who raised a Palestinian flag over their school. This was the first time that Israeli soldiers shot at demonstrators since Binyamin Eliezer was appointed as the coordinator of military activities in the West Bank. The Israelis' official Arabic daily *Al Anba'* claimed that the Israeli soldiers shot in the air first and when the students did not disperse, "soldiers shot at demonstrators' feet."

Bethlehem University was closed for two months as a result of continued confrontations between the university and the authorities. (see story page 1)

In the Kalandia refugee camp on the Jerusalem-Ramallah road the military authorities closed two preparatory schools for one month and placed the refugee camp under curfew after stone throwing incidents. UNRWA officials denied Israeli media reports that the schools were secondary schools or that the closure is the first on UNRWA schools

Arub refugee camp on the Bethlehem-Hebron road was also curfewed. According to Israeli reports three Israeli settlers boarding a bus to the Hebron area settlement of Kiryat Arba were injured by stones thrown from the camp. Soldiers immediately placed the camp under curfew.

In other incidents a tourist bus was stoned in Bethlehem, two people were injured. A store belonging to a Village League member in al-Bireh was firebombed.

In the Gaza Strip there were reports of demonstrations in Breij, Majazi , Nusseirat and Jabalia refugee camps. Palestinian flags were reported all over town on electricity poles and roof tops.

In what is seen as a new development "preventive curfews" were enforced on the refugee camps at Dheisheh, Balata, Aza, Jalazoun and old and new Askar. The qasbah quarter in Nablus was also shut down by the military. All "preventive curfews" were reported lifted the next morning.

In Nablus, Israeli soldiers shot down one of two pigeons which had been set loose with a Palestinian flag tied to its feet, according to local reports.

CAMPS CURFEWED IN CLAMP DOWN

Jalazoun, Dheisheh, Balata, Askar and Kalandia refugee camps were all curfewed on different days this week following stone throwing attacks on Israeli vehicles and settler attacks.

Israeli soldiers raided, October 26, Dheisheh refugee camp, near Bethlehem, searching homes adjacent to the main road. Eleven people were detained. The raid followed an attempt by Israeli settlers to break into the camp earlier the same day. They were repelled by stone-throwing camp residents.

The next day settlers and Israeli soldiers made a joint raid on Jalazoun camp near Ramallah. They broke windows in the home of Allon Tarifi and of a truck owned by Mustafa Zaid. Water heaters were also vandalised. During the curfew, declared during the raid, camp youths were rounded up and divided into groups. An Israeli officer appointed one individual to be "responsible" for the group and "to serve as a coordinator with the Israeli army," sources said. The youths were threatened with "severe punishment," if they refused cooperate, the sources added.

Curfews were also declared twice in Balata near Nablus, and Kalandia, near Ramallah, and once on Askar camp after reports of stone throwing. There were also reports of a petrol bombing and stone throwing near Bethlehem. (Translation: Al Talia, November 3, Jerusalem Post)

S. Lebanon Shi'ites Raise Resistance Call

The Shi'ite spiritual leader in Lebanon, Sheikh Mahdi Shams al-Din, reiterated his call for Shi'ite residents in South Lebanon to undertake civil disobedience against the Israeli Army in South Lebanon, October 29, according to Israeli sources. Shams al-Din announced, last week, that the Shi'ite resistance against Israeli occupation "will not stop until Israel withdraws from all Lebanese territory."

Israeli journalists said these statements "aim at inciting" Shi'ite residents to resist the Israeli Army in South Lebanon. Israeli political analysts explained in their media that Shi'ites expect the Israeli Army to close crossing points along the Awali River, which practically separates the north and the south.

Sources in the south said that Israeli attempts to recruit Shi'ites to work in their militias aroused Shi'ite fear that they will be used against the Shi'ite militia Amal.

At least 15 Lebanese civilians were wounded, October 16, when occupation troops attacked a crowd of over 50,000 Shi'ites assembled in Nabatiya from all over South Lebanon to celebrate *ashura*. On that day, Sheikh Shams al-Din called for all confessional, social and political organisations to unite against Israeli occupation. (Translation: Al Shaab, October 30, 1983).

No Rules for Prisoner Transfer

The Israeli state comptroller was critical in his 1983 report of the way prisoners are identified and transported by the security unit of the Prison Service.

The report concentrated on shortcomings in transportation. It noted that the unit is constantly accompanying prisoners from one prison to another or to various courts. The activity of the unit involves many dangers and should therefore be properly pre-planned and organised.

Among failures, the comptroller disclosed that the coordination among the prisons and the police units relating to the number of prisoners to be transported, is not proper. The number of prisoners to be held in the transfer section at the Central jail in Ramle is not always known in advance, he wrote.

The comptroller revealed that safety and security regulations in prisoner convoys are not observed — prisoners are transported in higher than permitted numbers; there are sometimes no replacement drivers; missing first aid and fire fighting equipment and the internal communications equipment in the transport trucks are not yet installed satisfactorily. (Translation Ha Aretz, November 1, 1983)

Pierre Gemayel Calls for Israel's Help

Pierre Gemayel, the father of the Lebanese President, Amin Gemayel, in an interview for *Ha Aretz* said before the Geneva reconciliation conference, May 17, that the agreement between Lebanon and Israel is a means not an end. The end, he said, is the liberation of Lebanon from foreigners.

His assistant, Alfred Mahdi, was more explicit: "If we announce that we don't cancel the agreement with Israel, the Syrians will start to shell us, and you, the Israelis, will not help us. Pierre Gemayel accused Syria and the PLO of disrupting the internal balance in Lebanon and causing the present situation in which "three-quarters of our country is occupied by foreigners." On the subject of withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon he said he is not sure whether the Israeli withdrawal would bring a parallel Syrian one., "Therefore I'm not prepared for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal."

Gemayel said he is open to change in the "National Convention" on which the political system in Lebanon has been based since 1943, "but it should be clear that we'll not deal with this with guns pointed at our heads." Pierre Gemayel's aid, Alfred Mahdi, member of the Kata'eb political bureau, and former representative of the "Lebanese Forces" in Washington said: "We need your help. The partial withdrawal of Israel contravened the agreement. Israel trained the Druze in the Shouf Mountains and is therefore guilty for what happened there. An investigation committee similar to that established following the events in Sabra and Shatila should be established to examine this question. We are now in an impossible situation. The only way out is through a clear and brave Israeli stand. Unfortunately, I don't see such a stand."

(Translation: Ha Aretz, November 1, 1983)

THIS WEEK'S CENSORSHIP

Following is a breakdown of censorship cuts for issue 183, November 4, 1983:

Number of original articles submitted to censors	22
Number of articles totally censored out	8
Number of articles partially censored but used	4
Number of articles passed	10

US AND ISRAEL WARN AGAINST REJECTION OF MAY 17 ACCORDS

Lebanese Freeze Pact With Israel

Reports from Geneva, November 3, say all parties at the Lebanese reconciliation talks at a local hotel have agreed to freeze the May 17, 1983 US-backed Israel-Lebanon accord. The conference, which is attended by representatives of all factions fighting the civil war and chaired by Lebanese president Amin Gemayel, started at the Intercontinental Hotel, October 31. Syria and Saudi Arabia have observers sitting-in on the sessions. Israel and the US administration have both issued warnings and threats of retaliation should the May 17 accords be rejected.

Early reports from Geneva, where the conference is being held, say that the delegates were achieving progress on many issues.

As delegates arrived in Geneva the US administration sent nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower from Naples to Beirut, and the Rangers Units which had completed their "battle excercise" in Grenada were also reportedly being transferred to Lebanon. Israel's Prime Minister Yizhak Shamir said it would not pull out of Lebanon and said a border along the Awali River if the accords were rejected.

Incoming delegates also made their aspirations clear. Walid Jumblatt, head of the Popular Socialist Party and a prominent member of the National Salvation Front told reporters, "If I have to choose between a Somoza-type fascist regime serving western imperialist interests and a free Lebanon, and the latter entails my being called a man of the Syrians, my choice is clear, I prefer being called that. Of course I am a Lebanese, but at the same time also an Arab nationalist."

Amin Gemayel, opened the sessions with a speech full of rhetoric, threatening a "major fire" would break throughout the Middle East if the Lebanese conflict is not settled. Participating in the conference is Amin's father, Phalangist party chief Pierre Gemayel, who issued a call for Israel to aid his son, representatives of the rightist militias, the "Lebanese Forces", ex-President Camille Chamoun, Lebanese National Salvation Front leaders Walid Jumblattt, Rashid Karameh and Suleiman Franjieh, "independent" Muslim Sunni Saeb Salam, Lebanon's prime minister and Nabih Berri of the Shi'ite Amal organisation.

At its first session conference set up a committee to define the "character" of Lebanon. Delegates approved, November 2, its resolution reaffirming the Arab nature of the country and confirming its adherence to the charter of the Arab League.

The resolution, was described by Israel's and the western media as an "achievement for the NSF.

The agreement stated that "Lebanon is a sovereign country, united by its land, people, and institutions within the boundaries dictated by the Lebanese constitution and recognised by the international community. It is Arab in its direction and identity, and a founding and active member of the League of Arab States and abiding by its charter which obligates the country to implement the principles in all fields without exception."

Conference sources said there was some opposition from the Phalangist-dominated Lebanese Front and that final agreement was only achieved after quarrels between Walid Jumblattt and Pierre Gemayel.

During the fifth and sixth sessions, the delegates opened discussions on the controversial May 17 agreement. Nabih Berri, is said to have demanded that the agreement be scrapped altogether. Rashid Karameh demanded it be frozen. After the formal meetings, the delegates split to discuss the pact on an unofficial level.

News of the decision to freeze came on November 3. There was no immediate official Israeli response. Earlier, however, Israeli defence minister Moshe Arens told Israel television that an eventual Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon is "connected to Lebanon's adherence to the pact."

The US State Department reiterated support for the agreement, and urged the Lebanese participants in the reconciliation conference to "preserve" it. Israeli newspapers quoted unnamed officials in the State Department as saying that the agreement is "the only instrument which could lead to an Israeli withdrawal," echoing pre-conference threats from Shamir.

The Geneva talks took place against a background of almost daily breaches of the cease fire agreed by participants, last month. Foreign correspondents in Lebanon said clashes were concentrated around the Souq al-Gharb area, which stands at the eastern entrance to Beirut, and the southern suburbs of Beirut.

Most conflicts were restricted to exchanges of sniper fire, but there were reports of occasional artillery duels. The Lebanese army and Phalangist militias on one side, and the PSP forces traded accusations of the cease fire violations.

The latest clashes occurred on the evening of November 2, when automatic fire was reported from both sides. The fighting died after liaison officers from the PSP and the Lebanese army intervened. In what was described by Walid Jumblattt as a "show of goodwill," the PSP agreed to ease the siege of the Phalangist-held town of Deir al-Qamar, in the Shouf, by allowing 200 elderly residents to leave.

Deir al-Qamar is in the hands of a reported 5000 members of the Lebanese Forces.

3 Israelis Hit, Widespread Arrests in S. Lebanon

Three Israeli soldiers were wounded, November 3, after a bomb was detonated near their patrol on a road close to the Zahrani River, Israel Radio reported.

Reports from South Lebanon said the Israeli army suffered a number of casualties during the week. An Israeli military spokesman, however, made no acknowledgement of casualty reports.

Amman Radio quoted foreign correspondents in South Lebanon, saying that several Israeli soldiers were killed or wounded during an attack against an Israeli patrol in the Tuffahah area, October 26. The radio said that the attackers used automatic weapons and rockets against the patrol.

Later on Israeli troops closed the area and started a man hunt. Villagers reported that the Israeli army detained a number of residents, apparently on suspicion of aiding fighters of the National Resistance Front.

In another attempted attack on October 30, *HaAretz* reported that two commandos were killed as they were planting charges next to a road near al-Qasimiyeh bridge, north of Tyre. The newspaper reported that the coastal highway between Sidon and Tyre was the scene of a number of attempted attacks against the Israeli army, during the past few days.

Israeli troops detonated, November 2, a car bomb, outside the home of village militia leader Talal Fayyad.

Israeli raids and arrests continued, this week. According to foreign reports the Israelis detained 10 people from Tyre on November 2, and five others in Sidon one day earlier. *Al Nahar* Lebanese daily reported that the Israeli army had conducted a wide campaign of arrests in Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp, near Sidon, and Rashidiya, south of Tyre. The paper published the names of seven people among the detainees. The paper said more than 1,500 Ain al-Hilweh residents are currently being held in Ansar detention camp. One Ansar detainee was reported shot dead by the Israelis during a prison break, November 1.

The Jerusalem Post reported, November 2, that several Israeli officers, who led a convoy into Nabatiya during the *ashura* festival two weeks ago, were tried and sentenced to prison terms, after being found guilty of violating orders.

Prisoner Solidarity Unites Women

The main Palestinian women's committees are to unite in a sit-in at the East Jerusalem offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross to protest prison conditions for women detainees in Ramleh's Neve Tertza jail. The Women's Work Committee, The Working Women's Committee, The Palestinian Women's Committee and The Women's Committee for Social Work issued a joint statement calling their members to participate in the November 4 sit-in.

The joint statement calls for: the immediate release of all prisoners, the granting of prisoner-of-war status to all prisoners and an immediate end to the "arbitrary measures against women prisoners in Neve Tertza."

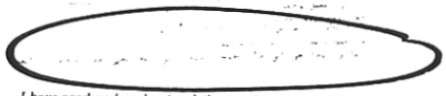
Fatina Sughayar of the Working Women's Committee welcomed the joint action and predicted it will "lead to more action that will bring forward the cause of Palestinian women."

Palestinian women prisoners at Neve Tertza have been on strike since last June protesting their treatment. The strike started when prison officials tried to force them to cook for prison guards. A number of Palestinian and Israeli women's groups have joined the protest in the past few months.

Israelis Back Down on Political Work Permits

After over a year of confrontation between the Israeli authorities and foreign teachers at Palestinian universities, the Israeli 'civil administration' has made "substantial compromises" in the work permit applications foreign teachers have to sign, according to academic sources.

Al Fajr has learned that



I have read and understood the conditions which will be in effect upon the receipt of the work permit.

A copy of a modified work permit application was given to the administration of Bir Zeit University, November 1. It makes no mention of the PLO and has no references to orders obliging foreign teachers not to involve themselves in actions that can be seen as sympathetic to what the authorities consider "enemy or hostile organisations." It was these political issues which forced a confrontation with the West Bank's four universities last academic year, during which several dozen teachers were deported and others banned from campuses.

The last paragraph on the amended work reads: "I have read and understood the conditions which will be in effect upon the receipt of the work permit." The rest of the form includes only personal details

Initial reaction to the new application was positive. Dr Sari Nusseibeh, head of the Bir Zeit University employees and workers union, described the change as "substantial." "We are discussing the new form, along with the students union and the administration, and hope to come out with a unified reply on the subject soon," he said.

Nusseibeh noted, however, that the last paragraph is "ambiguous," but insisted the new application is not the same as the old work permit application.

Al Fajr has learned that the conditions mentioned in the last paragraph refer to a possible verbal warning the military authorities are planning to deliver to foreigners not to get involved in "political issues."

The work permit fiasco began September 1982 when the Israeli authorities put out a form demanding that foreign passport holders working at local educational institutions, most of them Palestinian, sign a 'loyality oath' denouncing the PLO and considering it a "terrorist" organisation. Foreign faculty refused to sign the document. After a series of ultimatums, Israeli military authorities started expelling faculty and barring others.

Najah University in Nablus lost 28 faculty members including its president and the vice president. Bir Zeit University lost three teachers and Bethlehem University one. In addition, a large number of foreign faculty members were unable to enter the West Bank or were asked not to teach by local universities. Many teachers did not have contracts renewed this year because of uncertainty over permits.

PRESS OFFICE CLOSES AFTER COURT THREATS

Sam'an Khoury, owner of the Jerusalem Office for Translations and Press Services (JOTPS) withdrew a suit against General Ori Orr the former Israeli military commander of the central district, demanding that his office be opened.

Khoury told *Al Fajr* that he withdrew his case after the bench informed him and his lawyer, November 3, that it planned to accept secret reports from the Shin Bet allegedly linking him with an "illegal organisation."

The High Court judge also told Khoury that he would have to pay costs if he continued the case estimated at around IS50,000. Khoury said that the judge explained that he had a "very low" chance of winning the case.

The office was closed by order of the Israeli military for unspecified "security reasons."

Government Employees Want Wage Hike

West Bank health officials sent a letter to Israeli defence minister Moshe Arens, October 27, demanding pay rises for all employees in the health sector in the occupied territories to bring them in line with salaries in Israel.

The move came after a meeting in the office of one of the government hospital directors, October 22. Hospital directors and health department heads discussed the prevailing economic conditions after the latest Israeli austerity measures, which included large price hikes and devaluation of the Israeli shekel. This was the first meeting to discuss salaries since the occupation of the West Bank in 1967.

In their letter to Arens, the administrators demanded that health employees' salaries be equated with the salaries in Israel and that income tax be cancelled, as is the case with employees of charitable societies.

One government hospital director, who asked that his name not be published, told *Al Fajr* that hospital workers in Israel are paid around IS25,000 per month, while "salaries in our hospitals do not exceed IS8,000. This makes workers prefer not to work for us," he added.

The physicians' statements warned the Israeli authorities "not to take advantage of the fact that government employees are barred from striking for salary hikes." They also warned that should the authorities ignore their demands, they would go to the Israeli high court.

The move was welcomed by members of the West Bank Physicians Union, who described it as a "first step towards improving the general health conditions in the West Bank."

Dr Abdallah Sabri, who heads the Jerusalem branch of the Physicians Union, told *Al Fajr* that the move "should have been taken along time ago."

Dr Salah Bustami, head of the physicians union, sent a message of support to government hospital employees, adding that the move should have two goals: better services and a reduction in the cost of treatment to a level which ordinary people could afford.

Dr Bustami explained that the cost of hospitalization has risen from JD10 to JD50 recently, but that a matching improvement in services has not occurred.

Government school teachers sent a letter to the Israeli education officer last week demanding a salary increase of 100 percent. The military have permitted a 20 percent rise. The rise is described as inadequate by teachers' representatives, who point out it does not cover last month's price rises.

Meanwhile, Israel's state comptroller wrote in his 1983 report that social insurance payments deducted from the salaries of Palestinians from the occupied territories are unlinked. Thus, benefits paid in Israeli currency are virtually worthless by the time they are paid, the report said.

Arab Journalists Back PLO

The Arab Journalists Association in the West Bank issued a statement, October 28, announcing its total support for a unified PLO. The statement called for the support of the "Palestinian legitimacy" and for "independence in decision making within the PLO, whose institutions and elected leadership represent all Palestinians. "The AJA opposed all attempts to split the PLO or to "create another, alternative PLO."

"Palestinian national unity," said the statement, has been consolidated within the PLO through long years of struggle. The PLO succeeded in applying the principle of independent decision making and in attracting comprehensive international recognition.

The Palestinian journalists denounced any attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of the PLO and called for the establishment of equal relations between Palestinians and Arab states, based on the mutual recognition and respect for the independence of the PLO and its programmes.

The Palestinian journalists called for disputes or conflicts to be solved through democratic dialogue within PLO institutions. The statement also called for strengthening Palestinian national unity within the PLO on the basis of the Palestinian National Council resolutions.

The AJA went on to call for the consolidation of the alliance between the PLO, Syria and the Lebanese national movement to counter the escalated imperialist assault in our area."

AI Report Slates Israel, Condemns Governments' Politicisation of Human Rights

Amnesty International's worldwide annual report published today, October 26, 1983, attacked efforts by governments to manipulate public opinion by covering up torture and killings while making political propaganda of such abuses elsewhere.

Governments had used "deception, distortion and disinformation on human rights questions," Amnesty International said. They had jailed human rights activists, stifled information and used different standards in reacting to violations in different countries, the human rights movement said.

The 351-page report, with detailed entries on 117 countries, covers the calendar year 1982. It described the movement's efforts to stop the imprisonment of people for their ideas or origins and its campaigns against torture and the death penalty.

In a preface which underlines obstacles to protecting human rights, the report deals with the reactions of governments of all types to the politically explosive aspects of human rights.

"Statements about human rights have been misused to make political propaganda," it says. Among examples the report cites: reporting by Soviet news media on Poland; statements by US officials on Central America; and the sudden attention given in Britain during its conflict with Argentina to torture and "disappearances" in that country.

"The concealment of facts, the dissemination of half-truths or lies and other forms of manipulation of public opinion by governments must be challenged," the report says.

It stresses the need for accurate, unbiased information and "a single, universal standard for the protection of rights everywhere, regardless of politics or nationality."

Israel and the occupied territories, Amnesty International was concerned about the detention with no legal rights of thousands of people captured after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon on June 6, 1982, and allegations that detainees had been ill-treated.

After the killing of hundreds of Palestinian and Lebanese civilians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in West Beirut in 1982, Amnesty International urged the United Nations to establish an impartial, independent and international inquiry into the atrocity. It called on the Israeli government to act rapidly to clarify the circumstances of the killing and to cooperate in any international investigation. In a letter sent to Lebanese President Amin Gemayel in December 1982, Amnesty International welcomed the Lebanese government's initiative in ordering an inquiry and stressed that for the inquiry to be effective it should be open to public scrutiny.

The report makes no comparisons or rankings of countries' human rights records. It explains that this is partly because of the difficulty of obtaining complete information, as well as the impossibility of comparing types of repression or suffering. Any comparison would be open to political misuse, it says, and could obscure the principle that violations of human rights must be confronted wherever they occur.

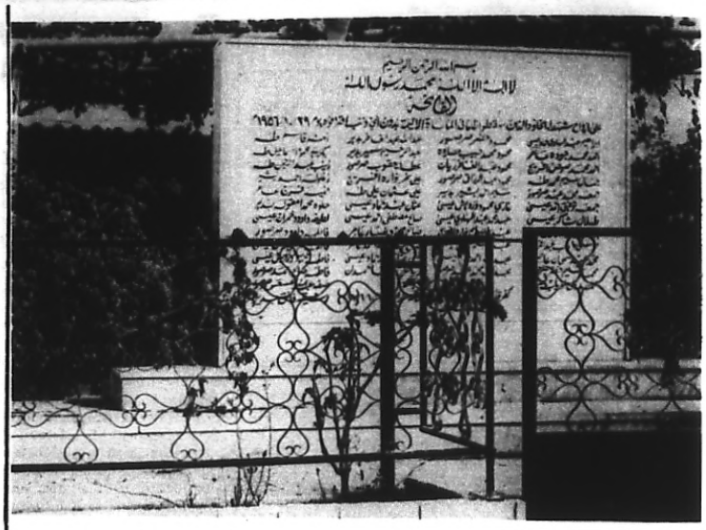
Student Politicians Jailed For Running in Islamic U. Poll

In the first decision of its kind since its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, an Israeli military court in Gaza declared activity in a University National Student Bloc, illegal. Five students at the Islamic University in Gaza City were condemned to prison terms ranging between five and a half months and two years, October 23, after the Gaza military court convicted them of "belonging to an illegal organisation namely the "National Student Bloc."

Four of the students who were detained last May were candidates for the student council elections in the university. They were running on the slate of the National Student Bloc against the Islamic Bloc, and the Independent Islamic Bloc. The fifth student, Nadir Fishawi, was charged with "assisting and making contacts with one of the four students."

Mustafa Abu Ghouleh, an ex-political prisoner, was convicted of membership in the National Bloc and sentenced to two years imprisonment. A five-year suspended sentence which he received in 1982 was also implemented. It will run concurrently.

Zakariyya Talmas was sentenced to one year and a half, and had a two year suspended sentence activated. It will also run concurrently. Mohammed Dahlan and Hani Abu Zeid, both of whom ran on the National Bloc slate, were given 10 months each. . . . . .



Kufr Qassem memorial to those killed in 1956 massacre

Thousands Remember Kufr Qassem Massacre

Four thousand Palestinians from the Galilee and the Triangle marked the 27th anniversary of the Kufr Qassem massacre, October 29, with a rally near the villge mosque. In 1956 at the start of the Israeli-British-French invasion of Egypt, a pre-emptive curfew was imposed on the small Triangle village and 49 people were shot dead as they returned home from the fields and local factories.

From 8:00 am, crowds estimated at hundreds by reporters, marched silently through the streets of the village towards the stone memorial of the massacre and put wreathes on it.

At a rally afterwards speakers recalled details of the massacre and the official Israeli news blackout on it. The crowd carried banners reading, "We will not forget you, martyrs of Kufr Qassem."

Democratic Front for Peace and Equality MK Tawfiq Toubi, in a letter to the Kufr Qassem commemoration committee read at the rally, said the massacre was committed by "the security guards" of Israel, on October 29, 1956.

"On that ill-omened day, 49 civilians were shot dead, among them 16 young men and women aged between eight and 16. We violated the news blackout imposed by the Israeli government and reported the details of the massacre to the local and international public."

In his letter, Toubi quoted former Israeli prime minister David Ben Gurion saying, "This matter will not be repeated in Israel again." Toubi pointed out that massacres were repeated again in the West Bank and Lebanon.

The soldiers found guilty of the killings received maximum sentences of 18 months.

Jordan Freezes Cash to Councils

Jordan has frozen funds of local Palestinian councils in the West Bank that are deposited in banks in Amman, according to some reports.

According to resolutions of the PLO-Jordan Joint Committee, "reasonable sums" were budgeted for municipalities and village councils and deposited in Jordanian banks so that mayors and council heads could draw sums without additional permits.

Recently the Jordanian authorities decided to stop the transfer of these sums to the (occupied) territories "until the situation is cleared." Messengers of municipalities and village councils who went to Amman last month returned without any reasonable explanation, according to reliable sources. (Translation: MaAriv, September 23, 1983).

Cohen-Orgad Stops Dollars for Israelis

Israel's finance minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad illegalised foreign currency purchasing, late October 31, in an attempt to halt the continuing slide in the Israeli economy. The move boosted the black market price of dollars by 20 percent.

Speaking on Israel television close to midnight, Cohen-Orgad announced a regulation forbidding Israelis from buying cash or travellers cheques for use in Israel. Israelis will be allowed US $3000-worth of cheques when they go abroad and foreign currency bank accounts will not be affected, he said. The new finance minister said Israelis are holding an estimated US $50-70 billion in cash and he wants to get that money into the economy.

The shock move proved an immediate boost to the Israeli black market. In Tel Aviv the price of dollars rose immediately to between IS100 and 105, up from the official rate of IS84.

There was confusion in the occupied territories where the Jordanian dinar is still legal, and preferred, currency. Money changers stopped trading in East Jerusalem after reports that they would be subject to police raids. When the situation clarified the dinar was up five percent against the shekel.

End of month economic figures for October revealed that the Treasury printed IS31 billion and that the state of Israel's dollar reserves fell by a record US $176 million. Bank of Israel officials say most of the shekels were immediately used to buy dollars. US $400 million have been shelled out to maintain the price of bank shares following last month's agreement with the four big financial institutions.

Israeli economic consultants report that there was an across the board fall of 40 percent in the price of all shares during October.

New Threat to Aid for Galilee, Triangle

The Israeli government is considering moves to prevent charitable funds from overseas reaching independent Palestinian institutions in the Galilee and the Triangle. Binyamin Gur-Arye, prime minister Yizhak Shamir's advisor on Arab affairs, stated, October 29, that the government will soon discuss legal measures to stop funds "from organisations which have ties with the PLO." His allegations and proposals have been attacked by Palestinians.

Gur-Arye did not name any international organisation nor the names of Palestinian associations, clubs or village councils which receive the contributions. He also did not explain how the government would restrict contributions. Later in an interview with Israel Radio, however, he said he thought any Arab receiving cash from abroad should "prove where it came from."

In his earlier statements, Gur-Arye made unsubstantiated allegations that foreign organisations contribute over US$1 million annually to the Palestinians for construction of clubs, cultural activities and students grants for higher education in local universities or abroad. Reacting to Gur-Arye's allegations, representatives of independent institutions issued denials and accused Israeli authorities of "preparing an atmosphere to strike" at institutions.

Mansour Kardosh, member of the committee for the defence of prisoners and of al-Sawt publishing house in Nazareth, said that Palestinian institutions here receive funds from international humanitarian and religious organisations in the US and Europe. The money is tax-free at source, he pointed out, and can therefore only be used for *bone fide* charitable purposes. "Charitable institutions receive these funds for humanitarian purposes after presentation of social, educational or humanitarian programes to these foreign institutions," said Kardosh. "We do not have direct or indirect relations with the PLO." If the Israeli authorities suspect that certain organisations have relations with the PLO, they should classify all international organisations from which we receive contributions."

Kardosh said Gur-Arye's office has not made specific legal objections to any contributor. "All their unsubstantiated allegations were made for press consumption," he asserted. "In fact, they want to terrorise Palestinians to prevent them from establishing international relations."

Kardosh estimated that 300 Palestinian students receive US$750 to US$1000 annually in scholarships.

Fakhri Jadai, head of the Arab Jaffa Residents Welfare Society, said that Gur-Arye "said nothing new. Last year I heard similar statements from him three times. They will not hinder our programmes."

Jadai stated that none of his activities could be considered illegal, but that "the authorities can make new laws to prevent the Palestinians from receiving contributions from international charitable institutions."

A variety of Palestinian organisation inside the 1948 borders of Israel receive contributions from churches and charitable associations in West Germany, Belgium, Britain, Holland and the USA.

Levy Warns Syria

Israel's Deputy Prime Minister David Levy warned Syria, October 31, against infringing "the bases of what Israel considers conditions for its security," according to the Israeli press.

"Syria makes a mistake if it thinks all the cards are in its hands," he said.

Appearing at a well-attended meeting in Kiryat Shemona with the Likud candidate for mayor, Prosper A'zran, Levy said: "Israel's face is not set for war and we don't want an escalation." He said Syria must not threaten the freedom and sovereignty of another state "by its extremism." (Translation: Ha-Aretz, November 1)

The Dawn
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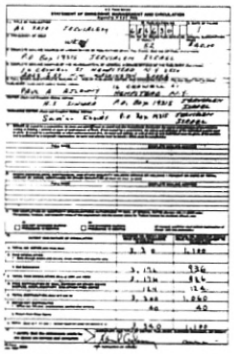

Palestinian Education Will Survive

On November 2, Israeli military authorities ordered Bethlehem University closed for two months and the only two UNRWA schools in Kalandia refugee camp closed for one month. Likewise the Israeli Army erected checkposts and stopped Najah University students in Nablus from reaching campus.

The pretext for closing the university was the students' protest a day earlier against the arrest of their student council, while the Kalandia schools closure pretext was that somebody threw stones at Israeli vehicles on the main Jerusalem–Ramallah road.

Banning the Najah University students was called a preventive measure on the day, as the Israelis know full well, which effected the Palestinian people as a whole when, 66 years ago, British Lord Balfour promised the Jews of the world a homeland in Palestine.

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Despite all these measures, Palestinian education has continued and progressed. The number of Palestinian graduates increases from year to year. The Israeli aggression on Palestinian education will not stop students from continuing their struggle.

AL FAJR — Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly

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Pentagon Revenge-seekers and Their Fabrications

by Livia Rokach
Our Rome Correspondent

With rumours in Beirut that an Israeli-style American revenge raid is imminent multiplying and intensifying, the population of the southern quarters of the capital are hectically consolidating defense workers around their homes, streets, schools and hospitals. Walls of sandbags and stones have been erected everywhere, windows and doors are being reinforced and drinking water stockpiled in bottles. While there is fear for the future, the over 600,000 Shi'ites in southern Beirut are raging. The majority of the residents are refugees from occupied South Lebanon and live in conditions of poverty and misery reminiscent of those of the *poblaciones* of El-Salvador.

Through all its religious leaders and political organisations, from Amal, which commands the loyalty of the great majority of the population, to the small dissident groups Islamic Amal and *Hizb al-Allah*, led by Sheikh Moussawi and Sheikh Fadallah, the Beirut Shi'ite population has rejected responsibility for the attacks which devastated the US Marines and French paratroopers bases, October 23. Despite this fact, American threats of "retaliation" against this population have been escalating. Nonexistent "evidence" is being diligently fabricated and presented with the express political intention to frame-up a major plot around them, they fear, in an attempt to creat justifications for an attack which would attempt to liquidate their organisational force and capacity to resist designs of the US-backed Beirut regime. The Phalangist propaganda services are trying to create an atmosphere which would "justify" such an attack. *The Washington Post* admitted recently that the Phalangist media constitutes the source of most of the information used by American media and Western intelligence services. Currently Gemayel's followers are circulating rumours that "the Shi'ite quarters are in reality inhabited by many Palestinians."

In an article published in *Al Safir*, the independent Beirut daily, titled "Why and Who?" Akef Haidar, the president of Amal's political office, recalled various Israeli attacks on Western institutions and in particular the attack on the American communications ship the US Liberty, ordered in 1967 by then Israeli defence minister Moshe Dayan, in which 34 American officers and sailors were killed and over 100 wounded. He concluded that the October 23 attack on the Marines fitted perfectly both the pattern of Israeli actions and policies in the past and its present provoking intentions in Lebanon. Moreover, writes Haidar, "the professional quality with which the attack was carried out, and which necessitated perfect knowledge of the base and data on the (deployment) of troops in it, such as was available only to the CIA and the Mossad, is not, unfortunately, of the type possessed by the poor people in the slums of south Beirut.

"We, in Amal, wish we could reach this sophisticated level of action, certainly if this were so, our enemy would have been defeated long ago," he concluded.

Another Amal leader, Ghassan Siblini, recalled in a statement that the Marines command was warned twice in the days preceding the attack that a big action against them was being prepared — a circumstance confirmed by the Lebanese police. Despite these warnings, Siblini recalled, no precautions were taken, and the Marines passed the night preceding the attack at a dancing party (to which many outsiders were invited — a fact the American media, obeying official orders according to some reports, have been careful to conceal. No one has suggested that Muslim fundamentalist girls danced that night away with the Marines, or that Shi'ite men from Beirut's slums were invited). The Shi'ite population, Siblini declared, has fought and will fight to defend itself, but "we have no suicide squads nor specialised commandos. If there was any truck involved in the attack — a truck which they say passed through our lines, well, we don't know (about it)... But to get to the Marines base it must have certainly passed through more than one checkpost of the Lebanese army (!)" Siblini recalled.

The suicide truck story, frenetically built-up by the Pentagon revenge-seekers and their media contacts, has, in fact, lost credibility among experts in Beirut and European Multinational Forces circles. It is in fact established beyond any doubt, military commentators in Europe note, that the explosion in the Marines base has occured inside the compound in a way so as to undermine the foundations of the buildings and consequently a perpendicular collapse of the walls. A blast from the outside could not have done this, writes the French rightist weekly *Le Point*, adding its voice to that of Italian media who almost from the first moment threw doubts on the official thesis of the suicide truck. Observers are also noting that. None of the Marines interviewed in the US press actually saw the incriminated truck — first said to be yellow, then grey. Its diabolically-described "smiling driver" was also not seen by a Marine. Scrutiny of the testimony shows that all the Marine "testimonies" are based on hearsay evidence said to have been "heard," in conditions of complete shock and confusion, from the sole guard at the only guarded gate of Marine headquarters. It has also been ascertained that a second gate was left unguarded because it was considered "too exposed to snipers' hits." The guard from who all descriptions of the attack have come is said to have been too badly wounded to be identified by name.

Five wounded Marines were exhibited to the press, October 27, at the US base in Naples and repeated the same "testimonies." Journalists were almost unanimously convinced they were talking under strict orders, in a halucinated manner, something between the drugged and the terrorised. "They began to speak like normal human beings only when asked about other subjects," one newspaper commented.

Both the origin and nature of the attacks in Beirut and the American "retaliation" plans were the subject of major controversy at the three hour meeting in Paris, the same day, of the four foreign ministers of the MNF. Nervous and visibly uneasy at US Secretary of State George Shultz's determined thirst for revenge, all the more so because it coincided with a new peak of anti-American feeling after the invasion of Grenada, French and Italian Foreign Ministers Claude Cheysson and Giulio Andreotti sought to publicly disassociate their governments from an eventual American initiative. Bluntly, Andreotti said an initiative similar to the Grenada adventure would be equivalent to "shelling Rome from the the Gianicolo Hill" — which overlooks the Italian capital — a clear warning that it would culminate in nothing but an indiscriminate massacre of civilians.

Andreotti also shocked Shultz by informing the meeting that he will be paying an official visit to Damascus — co-responsible with Iran for the attack on the Marines in the official American thesis — on November 7. Andreotti also suggested "the impossibility of keeping the MNF in Lebanon indefinitely" and raised the question of a different formula for a peace-keeping force in that country. For the moment, the MNF remains in Beirut. But what will happen if Washington, despite its allies' opposition, actually "exercises at least one of its options" for "retaliation," as postulated by Shultz? Leaving Paris, none of the European foreign ministers was convinced that this might not happen. It is in anticipation of uncontainable public pressure, in Italy to start with, for the withdrawal of the MNF contingents from Lebanon, that the pending controversial visit to Beirut by popular Italian president Sandro Pertini has been decided on and scheduled for November 4. Pertini is expected to exalt the peaceful and humanitarian role of the Italian troops.

That US plans for some kind of a bloodbath are in any case underway seems meanwhile confirmed by actions of the Gemayel regime. His supporters are seeking to supply the

continued on page 13.

AL FAJR invites our readers to contribute letters, articles and opinions. Contributions must be signed, but names may be withheld upon request.

Why I Refuse to Participate in the Municipal Elections

by Ibrahim Dakkak

The seasonal Israeli interest in the Arab section of Jerusalem and its residents is both interesting and ridiculous.

A story comes to mind. It was told me by a Palestinian contractor who built third-class homes for the Arabs forcefully evacuated from the Old City by an order from the agency to rebuild the Jewish Quarter. This contractor told me that the mayor (of Jerusalem) visited the project with a foreign delegation a few years ago. He explained to the delegates how the municipality is offering equal treatment to Arabs and Jews. When the contractor reminded the mayor of a new project which the municipality had promised to approve, the mayor smiled, patted him on his shoulder in front of the visitors and told him it will be approved. When the contractor went to the municipal building a few days later, he was surprised to find the project still "under study." It had yet to be "decided on" because " that area was still not zoned," he was told.

And now (a few days before the October 26 municipal elections — ed.) posters and invitations are out calling on the Arab population to vote for this bloc or that. When they read these posters, people felt the same way as the contractor did when the mayor promised him one thing but did another. These people feel the discrimination and the hypocrisy of the candidates.

They feel discrimination because Arabs are called on to vote for candidates who claim that Jerusalem is united and the eternal capital of Israel. They feel the hypocrisy because these candidates are allegedly competing to serve the Arab citizen of Jerusalem.

The ordinary person in Jerusalem who is not concerned with politics and does not pay attention to the politicians' analyses acts on feelings towards the municipality and its interference in his daily affairs. This interference determines the general feeling of the Arab society towards the municipality and grows out of a long, 16-year experience which no one can claim was pleasant. How can any person whose land was confiscated and sees a municipality give a license to the expropriator to build on it feel grateful towards this council? This is besides the other problems faced by the Arabs in Jerusalem in the areas of housing, health, education and violations of the sanctity of Christian and Muslim holy places.

This feeling is only a part of the larger concern which results from the gradual transformation of Arab Jerusalem into a ghetto where human conditions are deteriorating and social and psychological ills grow like cancer. Jews who lived a long history in European ghettos can realise the sufferings of the Arab population living under similar circumstances. If the Israeli government's vengeful political measures relieve some Israelis, the long-term results should be a source of concern for Israelis in general.

It is not difficult for anyone who is the least bit interested in politics to conclude logically that there is a relationship between the deteriorating conditions in Arab Jerusalem and the political measures of Israeli institutions to organise the decay. It is not easy, on the other hand, to exclude the municipality in Jerusalem from those institutions whose measures restrict living conditions and the future of Arab residents who also see the municipality's policies as compatible with Israel's overall antagonistic policies.

The Palestinians in Jerusalem do not just feel the municipality mistreats them like other Israeli institutions. They also feel it tries to destroy their ambitions and tries to mould their future in a way that does not meet their ambitions. For this reason, the Jerusalem Arabs see contradictions between real democracy and freedom of choice and the kind of democracy which the municipality wants them to exercise. Democracy, according to official Israeli perspectives, is there to deny them the right to determine their future and the future of their city based on their legitimate political aspirations. They see the choice as similar to that given to someone sentenced to die in the hours before an execution.

Some people may ask why don't we run and vote in the elections, join the city council and freely defend our point of view?

To this we answer that running in the elections, joining the city council and defending our viewpoint in that forum would require that we acknowledge the current relationship (as legitimate). This would tacitly change our internationally recognised condition to one that would contradict international laws. International law and all United Nations resolutions emphasise that what occurred after 1967 was an occupation and that Israel's decision to annex Jerusalem is illegal.

In addition to all this, accepting the idea of participation and voting indicates acceptance of the Israeli restrictions which it imposed on Arabs in Jerusalem — particularly keeping them limited to a specific geographic area and controlling their number so that it will not number more than one-third of the city's population. Besides this, taking an active part in the elections would mean we permit Ismel to continue its challenge to international demands and its denial of the Palestinian people's rights. It is our right, therefore, to struggle outside Israeli institutions, including the municipality, to achieve our national rights.

Others may ask, why do we pay taxes and why do we do business with the City Hall? My answer to this is that we deal with the municipality and pay taxes under duress without allowing anyone to interpret our acts as cognition of Israel's annexation of Jerusalem. In other words we deal with the municipality because it is forced upon us and only according to the IV Geneva Convention. If there are violations of these agreements, then they are made by the Israelis.

The position of the Arab in Jerusalem is derived from his belief that what has occurred and is occuring now contradict their rights, interests and declared political position which is in total agreement with UN resolutions. Therefore, to offer a service to the policy of annexation and repression by agreeing to elections in the Arab sector or participating in it is not on the Palestinians' political programme.

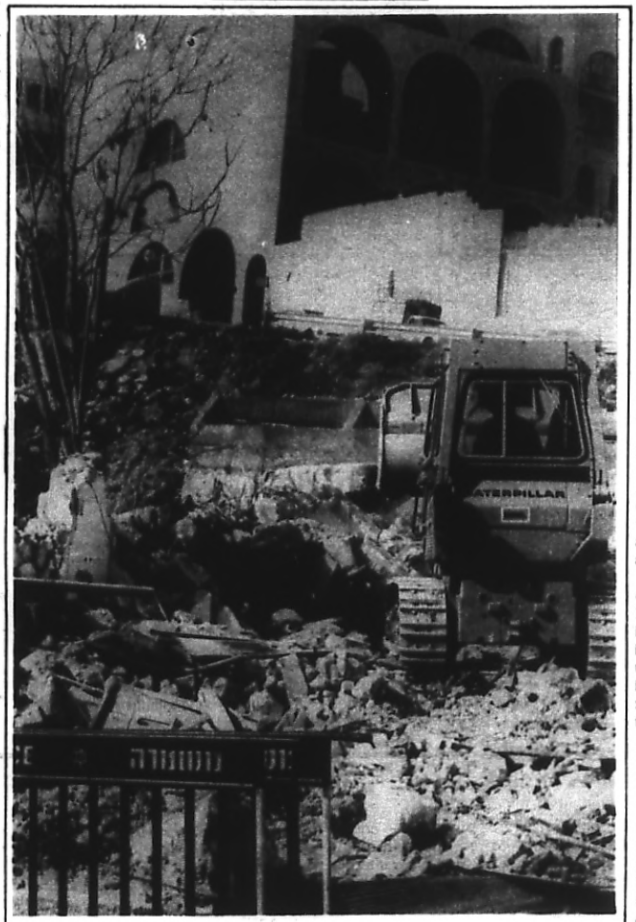
It is the case that the Israeli candidates run after an Arab vote in Jerusalem not to represent them or improve their conditions but to make it look like the Arab citizens are going along with the reality of the situation and do not oppose normalisation of relations and do not object to the annexation of Jerusalem.

There is another side of the Israeli interest in the Arab vote which reveals the candidates' real perception of the Arab citizens of Jerusalem. They look on the Arab as a means (through their vote) for them to reach their goals (but as voters who can easily be ignored) after they get there.

Although this is, in our view, a cheap exploitation of the Arab here by Israeli candidates, we still believe there is another face to the Israeli. There are individuals who reject political exploitation and refuse to allow the Israeli institutions to be used as instruments of repression and to see the state of Israel turn, through its institutions, into a nation that practices oppression and suppresses freedom of opinion by hiding under the pretext of national consensus with all its negative implications.

Maybe it is necessary to point here to the courage of the 'Jerusalem Peace' bloc, which emphasises in its programme its respect for the Palestinians' right to self-determination and declared that it does not believe in the annexation of Jerusalem. It also said that it wants to create an atmosphere of trust between Arabs and Jews that would help implement a permanent and just solution.

The substance of the relationship between the Palestinian and the Israeli was and will remain humanitarian. The main task for both parties is to prevent the chauvinistic institutions from ruining this relationship. Based on this relationship, good neighbourly relations will be formed if each side recognises the other's right to self-determination and to choose the right future for itself in peace and security. Then the individual will be set free and history will yield to human will and the heavens will cheer when the foundations of peace are being set in the city of peace.



The rubble of homes belonging to Arab residents of Jerusalem are cleared to make way for the outer reaches of the Jewish Quarter of the Old City. "How can any person whose land was confiscated and sees a municipality give a license to the expropriator to build on it feel grateful towards this council?"/SF photo

Ibrahim Dakkak is chairman of the Arab Thought Forum and head of the West Bank Engineers Association. He also sits on the board of the Jerusalem Electricity Company and was a member of the now-dissolved and outlawed National Guidance Committee.

A recent academic conference in the West Bank found the lack of basic data on the area a major obstacle to scientific planning. In the area of development work, the Arab Thought Forum has been working hard to fill the gap. *Al Fajr's* **Awad Abdel Fattah** recently visited the ATF to review their work.

APPLIED RESEARCH FOR THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

The idea of establishing an institution to study development problems in the West Bank first raised by a number of academics and national figures in 1977 materialised in the Arab Thought Forum. So far the ATF has published 27 scientific studies and surveys. Although they have not yet gone beyond the theoretical level, initiators of the project view it as a major step in the life of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Until recently, development problems were dealt with on a traditional and individual basis. Solutions based on field work and extensive surveys were out of question. Problems, ATF experts say, remained awaiting the right treatment.

In 1977 the Society of the Arab Thought Forum, based in Jerusalem, was formed to work in the field of applied research, "To study the problems of the Palestinian society under occupation and present solutions to them," in the words of society chairman Ibrahim Dakkak. "Also, the Forum will work to improve Palestinian culture."

To meet this second end, the Forum has established departments specialising in writing and art. Other departments are under discussion.

The ATF is managed by an administrative board, and the departments are overseen by elected committees. Both are subject to a board of trustees of 30 members, some specialists, other popular figures.

In the last four years the society's main attention has been focused on development. Perhaps their greatest achievement was a development conference in Jerusalem — "The National Board of the Development Conference for Steadfastness" was organised in seven symposia which took place over an extended period of time.

According to Bakr Abu Kishk, a Bir Zeit University economist and a member of the conference organising committee, the conference brought together academics, industrialists, factory owners, farmers, and landowners to "study and make clear the concept of development and specify ways of solving problems on a scientific basis."

The conference heard a wide spectrum of papers on subjects as varied as industry in the occupied territories, agriculture, labour and workers, the electrical energy in the West Bank, housing, and the role of health in economic development. After the conducted surveys were discussed, they were issued in booklet form, backed with figures and statistics.

Ibrahim Dakkak, chairman of the Arab Thought Forum: *Presenting solutions for the society under occupation.* **/SF photo**

The ATF set the theoretical basis for grappling with development issues but the application presents its own problems. Ibrahim Dakkak explains, "Because we live under abnormal conditions in the occupied territories, and lack financial resources, we have not been able so far to take practical steps." He pointed out that virtually all the contributors to their surveys are volunteers.

In the opinion of Bakr Abu Kishk, "To know the diagnosis of the sickness and find the prescription is an important step towards the cure."

The ATF has appealed to international development bodies for financial backing but has received much less than it needs. Dakkak explained, "Some of the bodies said they could not meet our conditions because we are in a special situation." He expressed optimism that ATF will get more assistance in the future from agencies and individuals.

He remarked that one big plus for the ATF is that it does not have a large and costly administrative system because of voluntary contributions by local experts.

The Writer's Department

The writers' department, which was set up in 1980, has helped overcome some of the problems faced by the Palestinian writers and poets in the occupied territories and consequently pushed the literary movement a few steps forward. Since then, the department has embarked on two major literature festivals — landmarks in the development of the writers' art in the occupied territories. At the 1981 and 1982 meetings, dozens of Palestinian writers and poets from all over Palestine read their latest works to audiences numbering in the thousands.

Apart from these two *magnum opi*, the patronage of the ATF has enabled the organisation of several symposia and lectures on literature. The latest, on strengthening the infrastructure of literature in the occupied territories, took place two months ago in the hall of the Arab Thought Forum. Thirty writers and poets attended. The department has publicised the best works of a number of Palestinian writers.

Jamal Banoura, one of the seven-member writers' department committee, told *Al Fajr*, "Despite the internal problems now facing the department, we can say that we have achieved a considerable part of our programme." He explained that before 1980, the writers of the occupied territories failed in several attempts to create a unified body and work through an institution. "The presence of the 40-member writers' department," he said, "backs and supports the Palestinian writer morally and materially." He added that the general purpose of the department is to unify the efforts and develop the literary movement in the occupied territories.

Future Projects

Looking to the future, the Forum plans to continue its applied research programme. Plans are already in hand for studies of internal immigration, the issue of women and the characteristics of class formation in the occupied territories since 1967. Dakkak told *Al Fajr* that the Forum is "determined to fulfill its role in this sphere because it is vital for our people."

Cultural festivals in the occupied territories are popular — and controversial. One of the few recent events to go off without intervention was held at Najah University, Nablus. **Ziad Mashour** visited the 'Palestine Week' and spoke to organisers, participants and visitors.

'PALESTINE WEEK' AT NAJAH UNIVERSITY

"Palestine Week" at Najah University began, September 26, with exhibits of the national press, Palestinian . . . art works, national books, traditional Palestinian clothes and national products. The play *Throne Passage* was performed, September 27, and *zajal* songs and popular *dabkeh* dancing were performed over the following two days.

At the opening ceremonies, hundreds of students and visitors sang national songs along with the university choir.

"The idea of this great exhibition," remarked Nasif Mu'alim, a secretary of Najah student council, "is part of the national, cultural and political programmes of the National Unity Bloc, which won all the seats of the student council. It is one of the most important activities."

According to organisers, a central theme of the 'Week' concerned the development of Najah University over the past 50 years. A special exhibition of pictures, photographs and documents traced the social and academic history of Najah since its start as a school and then as a college.

Another section was devoted to Palestinian writers. Books published by local writers were on sale. Older Palestinian newspapers and current magazines were also exhibited.

The sections dealing with traditional clothes exhibited women's embroidered dresses from all over the occupied territories. There were two exhibitions for the national products made in the occupied territories in which firms exhibited wares and . . . pictures, paintings and embroidered works.

Many visitors and university lecturers were seeing a Palestine Week exhibition for the first time. Samir Abu Zneid, lecturer in the commerce faculty who graduated in the United States, commented, "It is the first exhibition I have seen in the West Bank. It is very beautiful. A lot of hard work has been put into it. We should learn to appreciate the past so we can appreciate the future. I enjoyed going through it. My overall evaluation of the exhibitions is 'great.'"

"Hundreds of students and visitors come every day to see the exhibition," explained Rana Nasser, exhibition observation committee member. "We have been encouraged by their enthusiasm in the exhibition and sale of paintings, pictures and books. Many older men, women and children came, showing the strong relation between all the people and their heritage. This important and essential exhibition emphasises the real and true role of the university."

Representatives from other colleges were also appreciative. "It is not the first national exhibition," said Anan Attireh, a former member of the Bir Zeit University student council, "but really it is marvellous. I appreciate this step by the student council, and I hope that we can greatly improve Palestinian products."

Nabih Awwad, student council member at the Ramallah Institute, said, "The exhibition is comprehensive, for it contains all the national products which express our culture, folklore and traditions."

Randa Za'rour, a pupil in the first preparatory class at a Jenin school, commented, "My sole purpose in coming to the university was to visit the exhibition and attend *zajal* and *dabkeh* performances. I appreciate national pictures and books which express the suffering of the Palestinians."

Foreign visitors from Japan and Britain were also full of praise. Mark, a British student of politics, liked the . . . paintings and other art works the most.

One of the most significant political events of the year, as far as Palestinians are concerned, has been the UN Conference on the Question of Palestine. The final declaration, with its reaffirmation of Palestinian rights, proposals for a solution to Palestinian rights and framework for greater support of the Palestinian cause could point the way forward for international activity in the '80s.

GENEVA DECLARATION ON PALESTINE AND THE PROGRAMME FOR ACTION

(A) Geneva Declaration on Palestine

The conference, having thoroughly considered the question of Palestine in all its aspects, expresses the grave concern of all nations and peoples regarding the international tension that has persisted for several decades in the Middle East, the principle cause of which is the denial by Israel, and those supporting its expansionist policies, of the inalienable, legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The conference reaffirms and stresses that a just solution of the question of Palestine, the core of the problem, is the crucial element in a comprehensive, just and lasting political settlement in the Middle East.

The conference recognises that as one of the most acute and complex problems of our time, the question of Palestine — inherited by the United Nations at the time of its establishment — requires a comprehensive, just and lasting political settlement. This settlement must be based on the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions concerning the question of Palestine and the attainment of the legitimate, inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and the right to the establishment of its own independent state in Palestine, and should also be based on the provision by the Security Council of guarantees for peace and security among all states in the internationally recognised boundaries. The conference is convinced that the attainment by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights, as defined by General Assembly resolution 3236 (XXIX) of November 22, 1974, will contribute substantially to the achievement of peace and stability in the Middle East.

The conference considers the role of the United Nations in the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East to be essential and paramount. It emphasises the need for respect for and application of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the resolutions of the United Nations relevant to the question of Palestine and the observance of the principles of international law.

The conference considers that the various proposals, consistent with the principles of international law which have been presented on this question, such as the Arab peace plan adopted unanimously at the 12th Arab Summit Conference held at Fez, Morocco, in September 1982, should serve as guidelines for concerted international effort to resolve the question of Palestine. These guidelines include the following:

a) The attainment by the Palestinian people of its legitimate inalienable rights, including the right to return, the right to self-determination and the right to establish its own independent state in Palestine;

b) The right of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the representative of the Palestinian people, to participate on an equal footing with other parties in all efforts, deliberations and conferences on the Middle East;

c) The need to put an end to Israel's occupation of the Arab territories, in accordance with the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and, consequently, the need to secure Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem;

d) The need to oppose and reject such Israeli policies and practices in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and any *de facto* situation created by Israel as are contrary to international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly the establishment of settlements, as these policies and practices constitute major obstacles to the achievement of peace in the Middle East;

e) The need to reaffirm as null and void all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying power, which have altered or purported to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, including the expropriation of land and property situated thereon, and in particular the so-called "Basic Law" on Jerusalem and the proclamation of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel;

f) The right of all states in the region to existence within secure and internationally recognised boundaries, with justice and security for all the people, the *sine qua non* of which is the recognition and attainment of the legitimate, inalienable rights of the Palestinian people as stated in paragraph (a) above.

In order to give effect to these guidelines, the conference considers it essential that an international peace conference on the Middle East be convened on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, with the aim of achieving a comprehensvie, just and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, an essential element of which would be the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in Palestine. This peace conference should be convened under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, as well as the USA, the USSR, and other concerned states, on an equal footing. In this context the Security Council has a primary responsibility to create appropriate institutional arrangements on the basis of relevant UN resolutions in order to guarantee and to carry out the accords of the International Peace Conference.

The International Conference on the Question of Palestine emphasises the importance of the time factor in achieving a just solution to the problem of Palestine. The conference is convinced that partial solutions are inadequate, and delays in seeking a comprehensive solution do not eleminate tensions on the region.

(B) Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights

The International Conference on the Question of Palestine agreed that no effort should be spared to seek effective ways and means to enable the Palestinian people to attain and exercise their rights in Palestine in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1) and the principles of international law. The conference, taking into consideration the Geneva Declaration on Palestine (sect. A above), recommended the following programme of action.

I

The International Conference on the Question of Palestine recommends that all states, individually or collectively, consistent with their respective constitutions and their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and in conformity with the principles of international law:

Recognise the great importance of the time factor in solving the question of Palestine;

Intensify efforts for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state within the framework of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant United Nations resolutions and the guidelines of the Geneva Declaration on Palestine;

Consider the continued presence of Israel in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem, as exacerbating instability in the region and endangering international peace and security;

Oppose and reject, as a serious and continuing obstacle to peace, the expansionist policies pursued by Israel in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and in particular the alteration of the geographic nature, demographic composition and the legal status of those territories and all the measures taken in violation of the Geneva Conventions relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (2) and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (3), both of August 12, 1949, and of the Hague Regulations (4) of 1907, such as the establishment and expansion of settlements, the transfer of Israeli civilians into those territories and the individual and mass transfers therefrom of the Arab Palestinian population;

Refrain from providing Israel with assistance of such a nature as to encourage it militarily, economically and financially to continue its aggression, occupation and disregard of its obligations under the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the UN;

Not encourage migration to the occupied Arab territories until Israel has put a definitive end to the implementation of its illegal policy of establishing settlements in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967;

Fully comply with the relevant resolutions of the UN and its specialised agencies on the Holy City of Jerusalem, including those which reject Israel's annexation of Jerusalem and its declaration of that city as its capital;

Undertake universal efforts to protect the Holy Places and urge Israel to take measures to prevent their desecration;

Consider ways and means of meeting the threat that Israel poses to the regional security in Africa in view of Israel's disregard of UN resolutions and its close collaboration with the apartheid regime in the economic, military and nuclear fields, thereby contributing to the continued illegal occupation of Namibia and enhancing the regime's repressive and aggressive capacity;

Encourage, through bilateral and multilateral contacts, all states, including Western European and North American states which have not done so, to welcome all peace initiatives based on the recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people which were also welcomed by Chairman Yasir Arafat in his address to the International Conference on the Question of Palestine;

Seek and develop ways and means to enable the Palestinian people to exercise sovereignty over their national resources;

Express concern that Israel debars Palestinians from economic activity and access to national resources on Palestinian territory, in consistent violation of General Assembly resolutions on the right of the Palestinians to permanent sovereignty over their national resources;

Declare null and void and counter such measures and practices applied by Israel in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem, such as the annexation and the expropriation of land, water resources, and property, and the alteration of the demographic, geographic, historical and cultural features thereof;

Undertake measures to alleviate the economic and social burdens borne by the Palestinian people as a result of the continued Israeli occupation of their territories since 1967;

Consider contributing or increasing special contributions to the proposed budgets, programmes and projects of the relevant organs, funds and agencies of the UN system that have been requested to provide humanitarian, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people, with particular reference to:

(a) General Assembly resolution 33/147 of December 20, 1978, and the appeal of the Governing Council of the UN Development Programme at its 30th session, for additional special contributions amounting to at least US$8 million during the third programming cycle (1982-1986) aimed at helping to meet the economic and social needs of the Palestinian people (5);

(b) The proposed programme budget of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for the biennium 1984/1985 regarding the establishment within UNCTAD of a special economic unit, as requested by UNCTAD at its sixth session at Belgrade;

(c) Establishing a special legal aid fund to assist Palestinians in securing their rights under conditions of occupation, in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;

Ensure that the UNRWA can meet the essential needs of the Palestinians without interruption or any diminution in the effectiveness of its services;

Review the situation of Palestinian women in Israeli occupied territories and, in view of their special hardships, urge the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held at Nairobi in 1985, to include this item on the agenda of the conference;

Review, if they have not yet done so, in conformity with their national legislation, their economic, cultural, technical and other relations with Israel, and the agreements governing them, with the aim of ensuring that these regulations and agreements will not be interpreted or construed as implying in any way recognition of any modification of the legal status of Jerusalem and of the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, or an acceptance of Israel's illegal presence in those territories;

Recognise that the process of enabling the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights in Palestine is a significant contribution to the restoration of the rule of law in international relations;

Assure the observance of the stipulations provided in General Assembly resolution 181 (II) guaranteeing to all persons equal and non-discriminatory rights in civil, political, economic and religious matters and the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion, speech, publication, education, assembly and association;

Express concern that the laws applicable in the occupied Arab territories have been totally eclipsed by a plethora of military orders that have been designed to establish a new "legal regime" in violation of the Hague Regulations of 1907, and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;

Act in accordance with their obligations under existing international law, in particular with regard to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 which require state parties to respect and ensure respect for those conventions in all circumstances, and in particular ensure the respect by Israel for the Geneva Conventions of 1949 in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories;

Express concern that the Palestinians and other Arabs in the occupied territories are deprived of juridical and other kinds of protection, that they are victims of repressive legislation, involving mass arrests, acts of torture, destruction of houses and the expulsion of people from their homes, acts which constitute flagrant violations of human rights;

Recognise the necessity that Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners detained by Israel be accorded the status of prisoners of war in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 1949 (2), if combatants, or in accordance with the Geneva Conventions relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949 (3), if civilians;

Strive for the adoption of international measures so that Israel will implement in the West Bank and Gaza the provisions of the Hague Regulations of 1907 and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons, in light of the Security Council resolution 465 (1980);

Recognise, if they have not yet done so, the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the representative of the Palestinian people and establish with it appropriate relations;

Encourage, in conformity with their national legislations, the formation of national committees in support of the Palestinian people;

Encourage the observance of November 29 as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, in a most effective and meaningful way;

Request the General Assembly at its 38th session to designate a Year of Palestine, to be observed at the earliest possible time, taking into consideration the factors necessary to ensure its effective preparation for the purpose of galvanising world-wide public opinion and support for further implementation of the Geneva Declaration on Palestine and the programme of action.

II

The International Conference on the Question of Palestine stresses the obligation of all Member States, under the Charter of the UN, to enable the UN through an expanded and more effective role to fulfill its responsibility for achieving a solution to the question of Palestine. To this end:

A

States participating in the conference invite the UN Security Council, as the organ with primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security:

To suppress continuing and growing acts of aggression and other breaches of peace in the Middle East which endanger peace and security in the region and the world as a whole;

To take prompt, firm and effective steps and actions to establish an independent sovereign Palestinian state in Palestine through the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions, by facilitating the organisation of the international peace conference on the Middle East, as called for in paragraph 6 of the Geneva Declaration on Palestine, and by creating in this context the appropriate institutional arrangements on the basis relevant United Nations resolutions in order to guarantee and carry out the accords of the international peace conference, including the following:

(a) Taking measures consistent with the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force to ensure Israel's withdrawal from the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, within a specific timetable;

(b) Undertaking effective measures to guarantee the safety, security and legal and human rights of the Palestinians in the occupied territories pending the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;

(c) Subjecting those territories, following the withdrawal of Israel, to a short transitional period, under the supervision of the UN, during which period the Palestinian people would exercise its right to self-determination;

(d) Facilitating the implementation of the right to return of the Palestinians to their homes and property;

(e) Supervising elections to the constituent assembly of the independent Palestinian state in which all Palestinians shall participate, in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

(f) Providing, if necessary, temporary peace-keeping forces in order to facilitate the implementation of subparagraphs (a) — (e) above.

B

Meanwhile the Security Council is also invited:

To take urgent action to bring about an immediate and complete cessation of such Israeli policies in the occupied territories, and in particular the establishment of settlements as have been determined by the Security Council to have no legal validity and as a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;

To consider urgently the reports of the Commission established under its resolution 446 (1979) of March 22, 1979, which examined the situation concerning settlement in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and to reactivate the abovementioned Commission;

To initiate action to terminate Israel's exploitative policies which go against the indigenous economic development of the occupied territories, and to compel Israel to lift its restrictions on water use and well-drilling by Palestinian farmers as well as as diversion of West Bank water resources into the Israeli water grid systems;

To keep under its constant attention the actions committed by Israel against the Palestinian people in violation of the stipulations provided for in relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular the stipulations of resolution 181 (II) of November 29, 1947 guaranteeing to all persons equal and non-discriminatory rights and freedoms;

To consider, in the event of Israel's persistent non-compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions which embody the will of the international community, appropriate measures in accordance with the Charter of the UN, to ensure Israel's compliance with these resolutions.

C

Taking into account the recommendations of the five regional preparatory meetings of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine (6), and UN resolutions concerning economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is requested to convene a meeting of the specialised agencies and other organisations associated with the United Nations, as well as representatives of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and of those countries which are hosts to Palestinian refugees and other potential sources of assistance, to develop a coordinated programme of economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people and to ensure its implementation.

The meeting should also look into the most effective inter-agency machinery to coordinate and sustain and intensify UN assistance to the Palestinian people.

D

The dissemination of accurate and comprehensive information world-wide, and the role of non-governmental organisations and institutions, remains of vital importance in heightening awareness of and support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent sovereign Palestinian state. To these ends:

The department for Public Information of the UN, in full cooperation and constant consultations with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People should:

(a) Coordinate all information activities of the UN system on Palestine through the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC);

(b) Expand publications and audio and visual coverage of the facts and of developments pertaining to the question of Palestine;

(c) Publish newsletters and articles in its respective publications on Israeli violations of human rights of the Arab inhabitants in the occupied territories and organise fact-finding missions for journalists to the area;

(d) Organise regional encounters for journalists;

(e) Disseminate appropriate information on the results of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine;

Relevant organisations of the UN systems should organise meetings, symposia and seminars on topics within their terms of reference and relating to specific problems of the Palestinian people by establishing closer liaison with non-governmental organisations, the media and other groups interested in the question of Palestine.

III

The International Conference on the Question of Palestine, convinced of the important role of world-wide public opinion in resolving the question of Palestine, and in the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action, urges and encourages:

Intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations to increase awareness by the international community of the economic and social burdens borne by the Palestinian people as a result of the continued Israeli occupation and its negative effects on the economic development of the West Asian region as a whole;

Non-governmental organisations and professional and popular associations to intensify their efforts to support the rights of the Palestinian people in every possible way;

Organisations such as those of women, teachers, workers, youths and students to undertake exchanges and other programmes of joint action with their Palestinian counterparts;

Women's associations, in particular, to investigate the conditions of Palestinian women and children in all occupied territories;

The media and other institutions to disseminate relevant information to increase public awareness and understanding of the question of Palestine;

Institutions of higher education to promote the study of the question of Palestine in all its aspects;

Various jurists' associations to establish special investigative commissions to determine the violations by Israel of the Palestinians' legal rights and to disseminate their findings accordingly;

Jurists to initiate with their Palestinian counterparts consultations, research and investigations on the juridical aspects of problems affecting the southern African and Palestinian struggles, in particular the detention of political prisoners and the denial of prisoner-of-war status to detained members of the national liberation movements of southern Africa and Palestine;

Parliamentarians, political parties, trade unions, organisations for solidarity and intellectuals particularly in Western Europe and North America, to join their counterparts in other parts of the world in giving their support, where it has not been done, to an initiative which would express the desire of the international community to see the Palestinian people at last living in their own independent homeland in peace, freedom and dignity.

Notes

1. General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
2. United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 972, p. 135.
3. *Ibid*, No. 973, p. 187.
4. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press), 1915, p. 100.
5. See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1983, Supplement No. 9* (E/1983/20).
6. African region, A/CONF.114/1; Latin American region, A/CONF.114/2; Western Asian region, A/CONF.114/3; Asian region, A/CONF.114/4; European region, A/CONF.114/5.

The Jerusalem-Amman trip used to be a pleasant family outing for *Al Fajr's* **Daoud Kuttab** — today it is a nightmare.Just back from a visit to the Jordanian capital, he describes the rise in harassment — on both sides of the bridge.

A Nightmare Crossing

Things are just not like they used to be. I remember a time when if our family wanted to visit relatives in Amman we'd get up early, take the Jerusalem-Amman bus about 8:00 am and by 10:00 we would be drinking strong tea at my uncle's house in Jabal al-Weibdeh. Normally we did not stay very long in the city. Shortly after eating the traditional *mansaf* of rice, goat, yogurt and lamb, we kids would ride in the back of my uncle's truck and head towards our relatives' ranch in the Jordan valley near Salt. There we would spend much of the summer vacation living in tents and eating fresh grapes and figs.

This summer, some 16 years later, the trip to Amman and back to Jerusalem is completely different. My trip started early in the morning. The Abdo Taxi Company at Damascus Gate, which transports passengers to the Israeli side of the Jordan River bridge, suggested I come early because of increased bridge traffic. The bridge, they said, was closed four days in the past week because of the Jewish holiday of Succot. The bridge was also expected to close early that day because it was Friday and stay closed the following day, Saturday. The bridge crossings to Jordan are controlled by the Israelis since they insist on closing the crossings on Jewish and Israeli holidays.

Our seven-passenger taxi arrived at the entrances of Jericho about 7:00 am; after a quick ID check we advanced to the first checkpost about three miles before the passport and ID card control post. Here we had to wait a few hours in our taxis until the many cars in front of us had made the three-mile military zone that leads up to the bridge.

The delays in crossing the bridge to Jordan has caused an automatic round of exploitation among taxi drivers. One taxi driver charged a passenger JD5 for the short three-kilometres distance outside the checkpost and up to the passport control station. In order for taxis to be allowed to enter the military zone they have to obtain a permit which costs IS8000 a month. In turn this fee is passed on to the passenger who has to pay about IS350 for the trip from Jerusalem to the bridge.

At passport control, security and police officials collect passengers' IDs and permits for inspection. Travel documents are checked against a list provided to the control station by security officials from each West Bank district. While I waited to cross, a number of acquaintances were turned back.

Jawdat Mana'a, a resident of Dheisheh camp who was travelling on vacation with his wife and child, was refused exit. Another, a student at a Soviet university, was turned back. Ibrahim Qaraeen, head of the Palestine Press Services and editor of *Al Awdah* magazine, joined them. Individuals who are not allowed to cross to Jordan have to go through the whole process of waiting in lines of cars and people until the passport (ID) control officer informs them that their name is on the blacklist. They are given a small note and told that if they want to inquire into the reasons for their restriction, they can check with the local military governor, who undoubtedly placed their name on the list for "security considerations."

After a 15-minute coffee break for the lone Israeli officer processing the travel documents, the flow of passengers is again resumed. The checking procedure includes a number of steps. First, your name has to be approved by the security services, then your ID is taken away to be kept on file for your return. (A late return might cause you to lose your ID card, thus forfeiting your right of return).

By the time I was on the bus crossing the unsturdy wooden bridge, I thought that my troubles were over and that I would make Amman in no time. But to my great surprise, the newly applied procedures on the Jordanian side destroyed the rest of my day.

At the Jordanian passport control station a passenger has to wait for about an hour until his name is called. Names have to be cleared by the Jordanian intelligence lists before a West Bank resident, who is legally a Jordanian citizen, is allowed to continue.

After clearing the intelligence lists the traveller's passport is distributed to one of a handful of young officers to fill out a couple of documents. First, a travel document is issued to every traveller. The document, which is either green or yellow, has to be filled out every time the passenger makes a crossing, and remains in their possession. A green card is given to travellers who are permitted to stay for one month in Jordan while the yellow card, given to university students or workers in possession of work papers, permits a holder to stay in Jordan or travel through Jordan for a period not exceeding a year.

In addition to the green or yellow travel documents, the passport control officer must fill out a pink card every time the West Bank traveller makes a crossing.

Unlike in the past when the Jordanian officers would ask one or two questions about where a traveller was going and length of stay, the new procedure calls for filling out the following information:

*The exact nature of the visit to Jordan;

*The full name of the individual with whom the traveller will be staying;

*The exact type of relationship between the traveller and host;

*The exact address, including street, location and possible phone number,of the party the traveller is visiting or staying with;

*The exact employment of the host;

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There's perhaps no better indication of how much the war in Lebanon has clipped Israel's expansionist wings than the change in position *vis a vis* settlements of the extreme right — the most expansionist wing of them all. At the start of the war Cabinet minister Yuval Nee'man was boasting that there would be settlements in South Lebanon in a year. **Orly Rafman**, in an article in the Tel Aviv local paper **Ha'Ir**, solocits comments from the land-grabbing set today.

Five Minutes from Metulla

"We don't covet even one millimetre of the land of Lebanon," stated Menachem Begin in June 1982, but even then there were other responses from "Greater *Eretz Israel*" supporters who have repeatedly reminded the world that the region of South Lebanon is indeed part of the "Forefathers' Dominion" that belonged to the tribes of Asher and Naftali. In response to the prime minister's words, Zvi Shilo'ah wrote (in *Yediot Aharanot*, June 9, 1982) that the Lebanese state is a fiction, and therefore we must reach an agreement with Syria on its partition.

Is Israeli settlement in South Lebanon a delusion of fantasy or just a matter of time? The responses to this question remind one not a little of attitudes to the West Bank in 1967. The professionals and the private entrepreneurs who are now intensively settling the West Bank laugh at the idea of settlement in South Lebanon. "This is not relevant to the subject," said Danny Weinman, who conceived the slogan "Nofim — what a lovely life." He is not prepared to relate to the sights of Lebanon and the economic potential that they hide. Perhaps the Jewish Agency also does not yet have settlement plans for the region. "We have submitted plans to the government up to the year 2010, and South Lebanon is not included in them," says Ze'ev Ben Yosef, assistant to Mattityahu Drobless at the settlement department of the Jewish Agency, "but if the government decides to settle additional regions that are now in our hands, the department will have to set and plan an additional scheme."

In the view of Meron Benvenisti, who claims the situation in the (West) Bank is irreversible and there is no way to pull out, identical conclusions should not be drawn about Lebanon. According to him, the national consensus will not permit settlement in Lebanon, but he definitely sees the possibility that in the near future natural resources in the region (mainly water) will be exploited. "As long as the government is led by the ideology of Begin, settlement in Lebanon is distant. Begin indeed considers Mandate boundaries the borders of the state of Israel. It is true that there are factional groups who are perhaps working in this direction, but I don't see that a danger exists," says Benvenisti.

Holding for Long Years

At the head of what was then a group that was attracted to settlement on the (West) Bank stood MK Hanan Porath. "Whoever knows the Sources (Old Testament — translator) knows that part of the region was the dominion of Asher and part the dominion of Naftali. I indicate this because it is an historical fact. The question — what is the significance of this beyond being a historical fact — is the last question that can be discussed on the pages of a newspaper," he says, and requests attention be paid to the security aspects of the problem. "Our staying in South Lebanon and establishing the Awali line is securing the northern border for the long term." In his opinion, the military should definitely hold this line for many years. His solution for the problems of the local population is autonomy. "Sa'ad Haddad and his men should be encouraged to enable the inhabitants to construct an autonomous life on their own, knowing that Israel is behind them. The issue of settlement has no basis for discussion now."

His caucus colleague, MK Geula Cohen, is more cautious: "Indeed, Hanan Porath recalls the dominion of Asher and spoke more about the 'promised boundaries' that he, as a religious person, cannot avoid relating to. But he does not decide alone, and these are not Tehiya's claims against the government. He himself does not say that we should remain there because it is part of *Eretz Israel*. That we should stay there for many years is another matter."

In her opinion, the historic claims are irrelevant, and the reason to remain in Lebanon is simply a matter of security. "We would be prepared to withdraw tomorrow to the international border if there were a (strong Lebanese) state and our security was assured. The only state that was there was the PLO state. If we fold up now, we would have to make a 'no-choice' war in Tel Aviv." This is in distinction from Transjordan that was part of Mandate and Zionist *Eretz Israel* and today, according to her, is a fact on the ground. Settlement in the region will depend on time and developments, "if we sit there five years or 50 years."

Dr Israel Eldad and Zvi Shilo'ah, like Cohen, recall the plan that (early Zionist leader and later first president of Israel) Chaim Weitzmann submitted to the Peace Conference after World War I in which he proposed a line through Sidon as the northern border of Israel. "The matter is not strange to the sane Zionist," says Eldad, who quotes similar statements from (Israel's first prime minister) David Ben Gurion (from 1937) and adds the words of the Prophet Jonah, who ordered, on God's instructions, the setting of Israel's borders far beyond Sidon and even further than modern Beirut. "But I don't draw conclusions from this for today. If Lebanon (becomes) a state with which it is possible to talk, I'm prepared to withdraw today," he says. He also distinguishes between the West Bank, where the historic moment determines despite the security (question), and Lebanon, in which security is the determiner in spite of history. "I distinguish between Hebron and Sidon — between what was at the root of history and geography of *Eretz Israel* and a town that was on the periphery."

Zvi Shilo'ah asks the border be deliberately set at the Litani River ("all of us knew when we learned the geography of *Eretz Israel* in exile that the northern border is the Litani") and to concentrate on fostering the local minorities (Shi'ites, Druze, Maronites) in order to turn them into allies who would like to live on our secure periphery. "There is no need for settlement now or in the near future: we don't need to get into a conflict now with Haddad. We should be pragmatic and gain first sympathy and respect. There is an army there, and for now this is enough." (Translation: Ha'ir, 16.9.83)

AN INTERVIEW WITH POPULAR EGYPTIAN POET ZEIN ABDEEN FOUAD

Songs of happiness under bombardment

by Norma Murcus
Our Paris Correspondent

During the last quarter of the 19th century, the rebel poet Abdullah Nadim rediscovered popular colloquial poetry and used it as an instrument to propagandise among the Egyptian masses. Initially, other poets imitated his style, but the genre never really progressed; it eventually reached a dead end as poets moved into the so-called pure poetry. Such poems, while using the colloquial language, held many ambiguities and were as difficult to be understood as standard Arabic poetry.

In the the '60s, the famous Egyptian revolutionary poet Ahmad Fouad Nijm revitalised the genre and used it as a tool in that stage of revolution. Nijm's poetry is strongly bound to the people. Zein Abdeen Fouad followed in his footsteps.

Zein was a militant student at the Cairo University engineering college and he reflected in his poetry the aspirations, concerns and struggle of students and intellectuals. His poetry at that stage had clear connections with the students' struggle. Zein quit college and joined the army and after finishing his military service returned to study philosophy. After graduation he became a secondary school teacher.

Since 1971, Zein Abdeen has been in prison four times. In 1977 he was arrested on charges of encitement and organising popular revolt. He served five years. Abdeen was in Beirut last year, during the Israeli siege. With the artist Adli Fakhri, he formed a two-man troupe and performed for the fighters at their posts.

This is part of the interview with the progressive poet in a hotel in Paris conducted by an *Al Fajr* correspondent.

Asked about his deep knowledge of the Palestinian cause, he answered, "I married Basema Halawa, the militant Palestinian writer from Nablus, and through my wife I learned much of the details about the Palestinian struggle in the occupied territories. Basema, my wife, used to publish her short stories in *Al Fajr*. She wrote a collection of short stories, entitled *Luz Akhdar* (Green Almond), which was ready for printing, but the Israeli invasion of Lebanon postponed the publication. Within this concern about the Palestinian cause, I became a member of the Palestinian Writers Federation in 1974. I am among the first three Egyptian writers who affiliated themselves with the Palestinian Writers Federation after being dismissed from the Egyptian Writers Federation, whose head visited Israel.

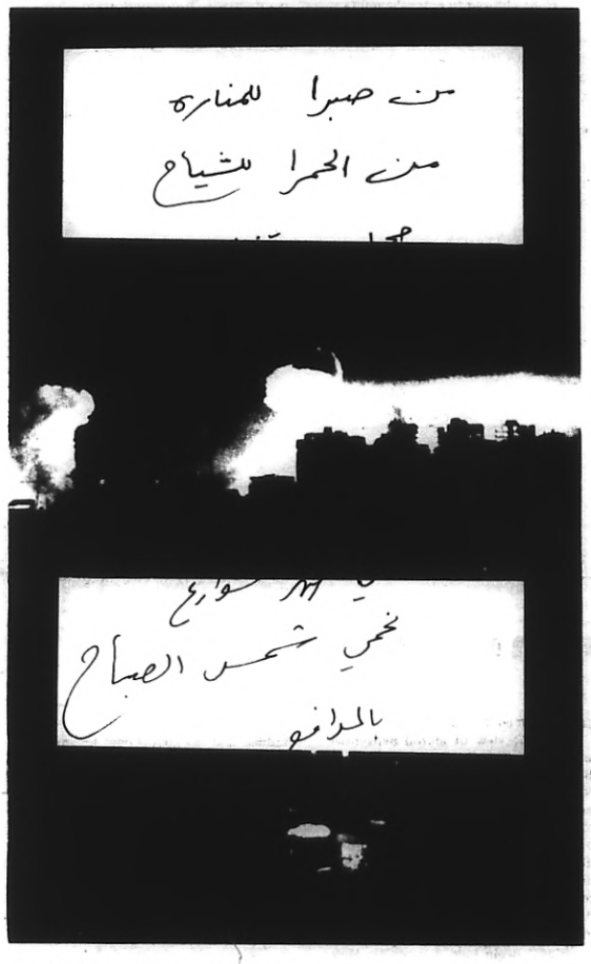
Q: When did you start writing colloquial poetry?

A: I stopped writing standard Arabic poetry 24 years ago, at the age of 17. Three years later, I resumed writing colloquial poetry. During that period, I read much of Salah Shahin and Fouad Haddad's poetry — they affected my writing. But the decisive factor was my deep reading of popular Egyptian literature.

Other factors are ideological. Eighty percent of the Egyptian people are illiterate, and I wanted to reach these simple peasants using the language they understand. Finally, I discovered certain charms in the popular poetry and mastered it as a means of expression. Popular poetry is an expressive means of art, just like modern standard poetry.

Q: You lived through the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. What were your experiences?

A: It was the first time I saw a war in the true sense of the word. Real war does not just mean battles. The difference between war and battle is very clear. Battles are limited in the forces involved and the arena of fighting. During the Suez battle (of 1956), people in Cairo and other Egyptian towns continued living normally. The war was different. We noticed the effects of the Israeli invasion on people and saw the changes which the war wrought on them. Children and fighters — the entire town of Beirut was changed into a fighting town — this is not a poetic expression, this is what really happened in Beirut. We cannot say that the RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade) children phenomenon was a miracle, nor the endurance of the rebellious women, nor Bisan, the child whose third birthday we celebrated 50 metres away from an Israeli military position. She sang with us to hide the sound of shells. I do not consider this a miracle — the miracle was the entire Palestinian people which was transformed into a military fighting people.



Adli Fakhri and I decided to go to different military positions to sing for the fighters — the happiness was the dominating feature of all the songs and poetry we wrote under bombardment. The fighters described us as "art launchers," equating us with the missile launchers. From this you can understand our mission in the war. We had the idea of publishing our poems later. Then the writer Taher Abd al-Hakim called me from Paris, and I gave him some scripts by phone. Later I was surprised that our poems and songs were published in a collection entitled "Nothing is Like You, Oh War, But the Homeland and Ain al-Hilweh Camp."

It contained the following songs: "Load Roads with Weapons," "At Beirut's Gates," "We Are the Militant Love," "A Window on Fakahani," "We Besiege the Siege," and "To an Unknown Palestinian Martyr, Killed in Beirut."

Q: This collection will certainly not reach the occupied territories. Will you recite a poem for them?

A: Why not, how can I refuse? But which song do you want. Is it possible to recite "Load Road with Weapons"?

From Sabra to Manara "lighthouse"
from Hamra to Shayah
stones shout war cries
weapons. . . weapons. . . weapons
we defend the streets' back
we protect the mourning sun
with artillery
from house to house to house
we protect all houses
we wet our handkerchiefs with oil
Beirut lives on

Q: What is the difference between the poem and the song?

A: The difference is in structure and unity — the poem is not formed of syllables interrupted by music or the collective sounds of the people. The basic difference is that the song does not need compound and complex poetic images; it needs simple short stanzas which the ear can easily pick up and lips can easily sing.

Q: What are the most important collections of poetry you have written?

A: The first collection "And Egyptian People," issued in Cairo in 1972, sold out. The war of Lebanon hindered the second edition.

In 1970 a second collection was published by Ibn Khaldoun printing house in Beirut. It is entitled "The Dream in Prison" and it talks about the experience of imprisonment.

The third collection, entitled "Songs from Beirut," was published in Paris during the siege. I wrote another collection after my return to Cairo and I will publish it soon.

Sheikh Imam (the blind *oud* player, preacher and long-time partner of Fouad Nijm) dedicated two poems to me: "All Lovers Came Together" and "The War is Still in its First Stage."

Q: Have you written novels or plays?

A: I have written some poetic plays.

Q: Why do you think poetry is more significant than theatre or novels?

A: For reasons connected with our heritage. Poetry is the oldest form of Arab art. Our audience is accustomed to listening to poetry recitations.

Then again, writing poetry needs only pen and paper. Theater needs the building. Poetry is an individual art, depending only on the poet himself.

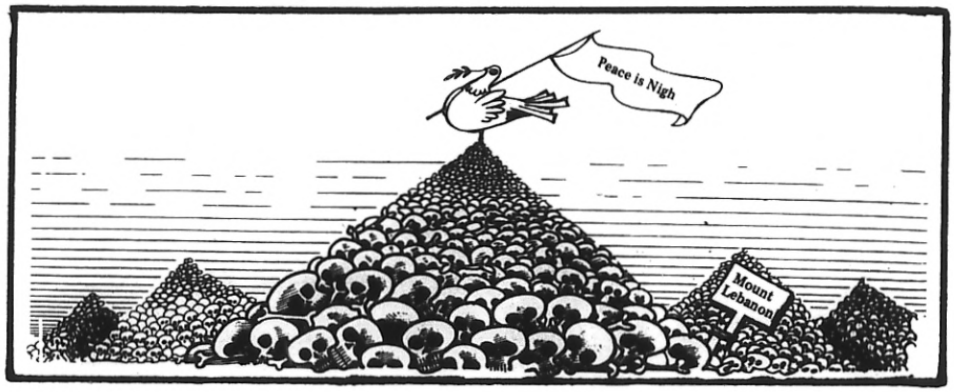
Theatre needs equipment. You can write poetry, if you are a poet, wherever you are, even in prison. It is enough to write on a small piece of paper and smuggle it out. That was what I did while writing my collection "A Dream in Prison."

Q : Which poets do you like best?

A: I refuse to answer this question for various reasons. First, if I wanted to give an opinion of a poet, I would need many pages. The question resembles those asked of actresses, and the one-line answer is given to promote competition and arouse the zeal of audiences.

In poetry, there is no "sole poetic representative," similar (to the representation of) the PLO. (Translation: Al Fajr Al-Adabi, No. 37, October 1983).

WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS



The Palestinian press concentrated on issues surrounding the Lebanon reconciliation conference which started in Geneva, Switzerland, this week. Interviews, analysis and photos were featured in all three dailies. Each devoted editorial space to the Lebanese talks. Late in the week, the Israeli goverment's decision to outlaw foreign currency purchases was given front page focus.

The US invasion of the island of Grenada and the continued controversy in the main PLO faction, Fatah, were the other issues given front page space.

UNITY AGAINST AMERICAN INVADERS

The barbaric American invasion in the Caribbean supported by its puppets indicates the general direction of Washington's policy in Central America, the Middle East and everywhere else where people are fighting its hegemony. The invasion also proves that Reagan's claims about defending peace and human rights are false.

The Marine's mission in Lebanon and Grenada are one. The invasion of Grenada is nothing but international terrorism committed by a superpower which claims it opposes terrorism, while it is the one committing it in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Afghanistan and other areas.

We cannot believe the American claims anymore. Who can believe that a small airport is going to threaten the security of the US? Who can believe American claims that the invasion was necessary to protect larger countries hundreds of miles from it?

All these justifications are not new. The American involvement in Lebanon was obvious during the Israeli invasion last year. The invasion of Grenada is not an attempt to cover up the American failure in the Middle East. It is another link in the chain of American aggression and proves that the Americans do not hesitate to involve themselves in any military adventure at the expense of freedom and world peace.

AL TALIA
October 27

MASSACRE MEMORIAL

October 29 marks the 27th anniversary of the horrible massacre at Kufr Qassem, committed by the oppressive authority on the first day of the British-French-Israeli aggression against Nasser's Egypt.

On that black day in the history of the rulers of this country — if they have any white days in their history — the state of war was used to commit a major crime, which was to force our Arab people, through bloody terrorism, to leave their lands as a first step to implement the famous racist programme to "clean" this country of its Arab people, once and for all.

The true reasons for the Kufr Qassem massacre were made clear when the former-Alignment, present-Likud MK Amnon Lynn said in a column on the anniversary of the massacre: "It is strange that the Arabs in Israel did not get the 'message' of this 'event', which is to say they are unwanted in this country."

The sad truth is that our people who are still here did not need any such "message". All official Israeli policies towards our people are terroristic and discriminatory, aimed at forcing us to leave "willingly," or else other methods will be employed.

The Kufr Qassem massacre proved that the government oppresses the Arabs in general in this country and it is against Arab presence in Israel. The bloodshed in Kufr Qassem, rather than forcing us to leave as this racist government wanted, made us more determined to stay and fight oppression until we defeat it.

AL ITTIHAD
October 28

KEYS TO THE SOLUTION

The US now seems determined to revive President Reagan's initiative on the Middle East. This determination is apparant in Washington's insistance on finding a solution for the Lebanese crisis. Despite the hard blow it received in Beirut, last week, it still made it clear to everyone that it will not leave Lebanon before a solution is reached. It is known that an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon was one of the two conditions King Hussein of Jordan put on agreement with the Reagan initiative. King Hussein also demanded a halt of settlement in the occupied lands.

Because of this, the political fight over the West Bank and Gaza is now on Lebanese soil. The US is working out a plan for Israeli and other forces to withdraw from Lebanon. It also promised to pressure Israel once the Arabs indicate their acceptance of Reagan's initiative. But in the current situation, Arab collective action seems far fetched. Every Arab nation believes it has the key to the problem.

Syria believes its key is in controlling the PLO. The Saudis believe it comes from strengthening their relationship with the US. Libya thinks it can solve it through threats. There are many other totally ineffective keys.

But the main key is not in the hands of America or any other nation. It is only in the hands of the Palestinians who have the sole right to determine their future if they preserve the independence of the Palestinian decision.

AL QUDS
October 29

THE RESPONSIBLE DECISION

Egypt's Hosni Mubarak's delegates have started missions to Arab countries under the eyes of the Arab people. Mubarak has recently returned from a trip to the US where he held meetings with Ronald Reagan and his aides. It seems that Reagan gave him permission to make public Egypt's "secret" relationship with other Arab leaders.

The conspiracy being plotted now by Egypt is about to be implemented. It has something to do with the Palestinian and Lebanese crisis. The PLO, in Egypt's and America's eyes, is becoming very weak and unable to carry on its mission. This means Egypt is ready to take on the initiative. But we still believe their conspiracy will not work. Our people have foiled many other plots and are therefore capable of foiling new ones.

AL MITHAQ
October 29

EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATIC MOVES

Egyptian diplomacy is active these days. Senior officials in the foreign ministry are touring Arab capitals they have not set foot in for four years. Official statements tackle all Arab issues.

If Egypt's return to the Arab arena is to be considered a national demand, the Egypt the Arab people expect to see back strong and active is not the Egypt of Anwar Sadat and his successors. The Egypt they need is the one that feels obligation to Arab nationalist causes and is an enemy to imperialism.

But what is happening now is that the architects of the Camp David agreement in Egypt are trying to return to the Arab arena by taking advantage of the setbacks of the Arab liberation movements in order to rebuild the alliance between America's Arabs in this region.

The Mubarak regime still follows Sadat's political logic, particularly because the foundations of their regimes are the same.

AL SHAAB
October 30

THE AMERICAN PLAN

Out of a feeling of responsibility and concern for prevention of bloodshed, (PLO Chief) Yasir Arafat ordered his forces not to respond to shelling on them so that those conspiring against the Palestinian people and its revolution will not have an excuse to escalate fighting and cause more bloodshed.

Arafat knocked on every door to resolve the crisis created by the conspirators. He held the Arab regimes responsible for preserving Palestinian blood when he asked them to mediate the problem with the Syrian regime that claims neutrality in what is occuring in north Lebanon.

The Palestinian initiatives to resolve the crisis with Syria through dialogue are an indication of the Palestinian leadership's concern for mending fences with Syria. But all their efforts were faced with Arab apathy and Syrian lack of concern.

AL FAJR
October 31

VICTORY FOR DEMOCRACY IN ARGENTINA

The Argentine Radical party achieved a great victory yesterday against its Peronist counterpart in the Argentinian elections.

This victory for the radicals closed a chapter of 40 years of Peronist rule and eight years of military dictatorship which ruled Argentina following the ousting of Isabel Peron in 1976.

The Argentine people's rush to the ballot centers for the first time in 10 years reflects their thirst for democracy and return for constitutional rule which was taken away during ten years of military rule. Regardless of who won the elections, the mere fact they were held is a victory for the Argentine people and a victory for freedom and democracy for all the people struggling for peace and justice in the world. A victory for democracy anywhere in the world is a victory for the whole world against tyranny, repression and oppression.

AL FAJR
October 31

Shaka'a, Abd al-Shafi Barred from Meeting UK Minister

Elected mayor Bassam Shaka'a and Gaza Red Crescent Society chairman Dr Haidar Abd al-Shafi were prevented by the Israeli military from going to Jerusalem to meet Britain's minister of state for Middle East affairs at the foreign office, Richard Luce, November 3. West Bankers who met Luce protested the Israeli move.

Jerusalem Electricity Company Chairman, Anwar Nusseibeh, said he handed Luce a letter protesting the exclusion of Shaka'a and Abd al-Shafi. Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij condemned the Israeli action. He said he had asked Luce to arrange European Economic Community technical aid for the West Bank.

Luce made no direct comment on the movement restrictions. He said reporters should ask Israel for an explanation of the banning.

Four West Bankers, dismissed al-Bireh Mayor Ibrahim Tawil, dismissed Acting-mayor of Hebron Mustafa Natshe, Ibrahim Dakkak, head of the West Bank Engineers Association and Na'im Tarazi walked out of a lunch arranged for Luce saying if "Shaka'a couldn't talk to Luce, neither would they." Dismissed Mayor of Ramallah Karim Khalaf was prevented from getting to Jerusalem for the lunch.

Bassam Shaka'a told *Al Fajr* he was happy with the national unity shown in the reaction to the Israeli restrictions on him. He expressed "regret that the deputy minister did not comment on the issue."

Luce spent two days with the Israelis and called for "daily dialogue" between Israel and Britain. He is also visiting Amman and Cairo on his current Middle East tour.

British Rabbi Critical of Israeli Regime

In a unique move the Chief Rabbi of Great Britain Sir Immanuel Jacobovits published a letter he sent recently to a number of the ultra-religious Agudat Israel faction in Israel in which he was highly critical of the present Israeli regime.

The Jewish Chronicle, organ of British Jewry, wrote in a front page article, September 30: "An unprecedented rebuke has been delivered to Agudat Israel by the Chief Rabbi. . . Sir Immanuel's criticism of the Aguda was contained in an exchange of letters with a member of the Aguda faction in the Knesset, printed in *L'Eylah*, the newsletter published by the Chief Rabbi's office."

He wrote: "Countless religious Jews, not to mention the indifferent, are affronted and alienated by the unseemly manner in which a government is kept in power to pursue policies of militant nationalism which hardly spring from Torah values and which have caused Israel and world Jewry to suffer the consequences of a collective *Chilul Hashem* (profanation of God's name) for which I know of no parallel in our history.

"The denunciation by the Aguda leadership of the Kahan Commission (Inquiry into the Sabra and Shatila massacre, last year) — before and after it was set up — is just one example which morally sensitive Jews find incomparable with Jewish ideals and interests."

Akiva Orr, who has written extensively on the conflict between religiousness and secularism in Jewry, wrote to *Al Fajr* that the Chief Rabbi's move was "courageous." He called the exchange "one of the first cracks in the inevitable schism between Israel and Religious Jewry, between those who worship God and those who worship the Jewish nation, or the 'Land of Israel'."

HAKAWATI ARTS PROJECT STARTS

The Al-Hakawati theatre company signed a long term rental agreement to acquire the (old) Nuzha cinema in Jerusalem October 30. The company plans to convert it into a theatre and art centre.

Members of the Palestinian theatre company started, November 1, to clean up and renovate the vandalised cinema and plan to open the art centre for shows early in 1984. Several local voluntary work groups are planning to assist in rehabilitating the main hall and the area around the building.

The new art centre, the first of its kind in the area, will provide badly needed rehearsal and performance space for local Palestinian theatre gorups as well as a base for Al-Hakawati, a spokesman for the troop told *Al Fajr*. They also plan local folk, musical, theatre and film festivals. A cinema club and a music library are also part of future plans for the center.

The Al-Hakawati theatre group was started in 1977 and has performed to local and international audiences since then.

Beirut Bombs: The Final Toll

The final number of US Marines killed in the explosion which devastated their base on Sunday October 23 is given as 277 — 230 of the bodies have been found and 47 declared blown to pieces. The number of the wounded is put at 40. The total US casualties — 317 — represents over 10 percent of the American combat force stationed in Beirut. The French casualties amount to 58 paratroopers, two bodies have not been found and 14 wounded.

The explosion at the Marines base completely devastated the highly sophisticated and advanced centre of tele-communications and laser detection which made this base the nerve centre of the entire US military infrastructure in Lebanon. Located on the third floor, the telephone and radio exchanges linked the Marines headquarters to all the American positions on land and to the warships stationed in Lebanese waters. The laser system situated on the roof indicated targets to aircraft and warships.

continued from page 5

PENTAGON

"revenge-seekers" in Washington with "proof" of their thesis regarding the "Shi'ite-Iranian-Syrian" origin of the attack. To this effect, mas arrests have been carried out by the Lebanese Army in the predominantly Shi'ite Bir Hassan neighbourhood. Other detentions have only been prevented thanks to armed resistance in some areas of the same quarter. Official announcements speak of "the arrest of some persons suspected of having contacts with Iran." Legal experts have pointed out that this is a strange accusation at best, seeing that there is no reason to consider such contacts illegal. But the monstrous nature of the operation comes to light only if illuminated by real facts. According to Lebanese security sources, such arrests take place on the basis of lists of friends and acquanitances of five detainees, one of whom is Palestinian, who have been in prison since the explosion which devastated the US Embassy in Beirut on April 18. They are suspected, but there is no evidence, of responsibility for that attack. Paolo Crociani, the Italian photo-reporter for Associated Press, who was arrested and held at the *Surete* interrogation centre a few days later, described in her testimony the torture inflicted on some of those detainees, especially the Palestinian and one of the Shi'ites arrested (see *Al Fajr* May 6). These same persons, who protested themselves innocent then and have been held in prison since with no evidence against them, despite the torture, have now been dragged in again "for interrogation" to supply the Phalangist power with names of more innocent scapegoats, according to the *Surete*. Veteran observers note, however, the *Surete* may have also invented this detail to confer credibility to the arrests of a central part of the regime's expected "show of efficiency."

Vacant Apartments in Ramallah
for more information call Darwish Khatib:
952461 or 953940

continued from page 10

CROSSING

*The exact address and phone number of the employer of the visited party;

*The exact length of time in which the traveller intends to stay in Jordan.

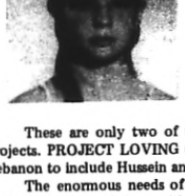
After successfully answering all the above questions, the traveller is permitted to continue on his journey.

Normally, taxis to Amman are waiting and I would take one. But this particular day the taxis had all left and I joined people waiting for the next taxi coming to take us to Amman. The Jordanian officer calling the names of travellers over the microphone noticed the lack of taxis. "Everyone get on the buses," he demanded. Finding no response from the tired travellers, he screamed even louder, "I am telling you get on those buses, there are no taxis. We have stopped taxis from coming here," he lied to the unoriented travellers. Some listened to him and had to suffer the three long hours it takes the buses to make it to Amman. I chose not to listen to the orders and to wait, and within 15 minutes taxis came and it took us about an hour to reach Amman.

Amman is like an alien planet. A construction craze has overwhelmed the Jordanian capital. The city is overcrowded with low-paid labourers from Egypt, India, Pakistan, the Phillipines and more. The large influx of foreign workers is condemned by locals. One man explained: "Where a plumber used to get paid JD20 for a job an Egyptian will do the same work for JD5. The local worker has to bring his price down or else he will be put out of business."

House cleaners are also angry with the foreign raid on Jordan. Most middle and upper class families have Phillipino women living in and doing all the house work for a wage of JD40.

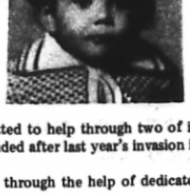
One local resident explained the changes in Jordan are a direct result of the Iraqi-Iranian war and the continuous turmoil in Lebanon. Foreign and Arab businessmen, not wanting to live in the Gulf, find in Jordan the nearest and easiest place to reside.



Project Loving Care

This is Louisa, 9 years old. She lives in occupied Palestine, in one room with her 6 brothers and sisters. Their house and farm were expropriated by the military authorities.

This is Hussein, 3 years old. He lives in Shatila refugee camp in Lebanon. His father was killed in the war. He lives with his mother, 2 sisters and 5-month old brother. They have no income.



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UNITED HOLY LAND FUND
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These are only two of the hundreds of destitute children UNITED HOLY LAND FUND is committed to help through two of its projects. PROJECT LOVING CARE has been helping Louisa and others like her since 1969, and was extended after last year's invasion in Lebanon to include Hussein and others like him through PROJECT LOVING CARE — LEBANON.

The enormous needs of these children, the innocent victims of war and oppression, can only be met through the help of dedicated individuals who will share with UHLF in this commitment.

We are asking only $15.00 per month to sponsor a child. That's only $.50 per day. The reward is the pleasure of helping YOUR sponsored child survive and realise his (her) potential as a human being. Through correspondence with YOUR child and his (her) family, you will each learn to love and appreciate the joys and sorrows of others half a world away.

Your contributions are TAX-DEDUCTIBLE. You will receive a picture and biography of your sponsored child and further information on the programme.

WEEKLY REVIEW

October 26, 1983

ECONOMIC SITUATION WORSENS IN WEST BANK

TULKARM — West Bank employees of the occupation authorities complained that the sharp devaluation in the shekel and the 50 percent increases recently announced by the Israeli government will hurt their economic status.

They said that while the IS17,000 they used to receive a month was worth JD100, this month it will total only JD60. They observe that the buying power of the dinar had decreased because of the price increases of basic goods.

WEST BANK EDUCATION HEADS

HEBRON — Heads of district education departments in the West Bank, principals of educational institutions and directors of examination departments met the Israeli military officer in charge of education in Ramallah to discuss issues of concern to the teachers. The head of the education department in Hebron, Mohammed Ja'abari, said the teachers' low salaries was one of the major topics of discussion. He said there will be an increase in their salaries sometime soon.

NO MEAT

GAZA — Butchers in Gaza stopped slaughtering cattle to protest a new two percent levy they were ordered to pay. This tax is separate from all other taxes.

A NEW CHOLERA CASE IN GAZA

GAZA — A 21-year-old woman was discovered to have cholera and immediately admitted to hospital here.

TELEPHONES NEEDED

HEBRON — A Hebron man bit by a snake had trouble getting help because telephones in Hebron are out of order. The man was suffering severe pain while neighbours tried in vain to call an ambulance or doctor. A taxi was found later and took the man to the hospital. The telephone lines in Hebron have been out of order for some time, to the annoyance of the city's residents.

AMNESTY CRITICAL OF ISRAEL

LONDON — Amnesty International expressed deep concern over the fate of 5400 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners held at Ansar detention camp in South Lebanon, in its annual report published here, October 25.

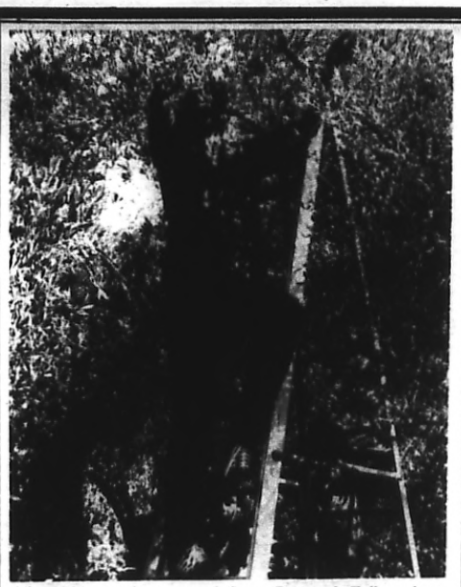
In its report, AI, the independent human rights watchdog, said a large number of prisoners held since the Israeli invasion and occupation of South Lebanon last year have complained of bad treatment and beatings.

The report published names of seven people it said died while in a prison Israel had established in Sidon and warned against Israel's increased use of administrative restriction of Palestinians in the occupied territories. It said 41 people under administrative orders were released from a total of 61 in the past year.

Twelve Druze leaders who opposed Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights have been released as well, according to the five-page chapter in the 351 page annual AI report.

The report, which catalogued human rights violations in 117 nations, said 15 Palestinians were killed and hundreds more wounded in demonstrations in the occupied lands during the past year.

Amnesty called on the United Nations to form a fact-finding committee to study Israeli human rights violations in the occupied territories, particularly after the Sabra and Shatila massacres. It demanded an explanation of the events that led to the massacres.



Olive picking as the season winds up. Farmers in Tulkarm have received permission to export olives and olive oil to Jordan though exports are down over last year.

Balata refugee camp, near Nablus, was put under curfew, October 31, following a Molotov attack on an Israeli military vehicle. Kalandia, Dheisheh and Askar camps were also curfewed this week. /JN photo

October 27, 1983

IS30 BILLION ON SETTLEMENT

TEL AVIV — New Israeli Finance Minister Yigael Cohen-Orgad said Israel will spend IS30.35 billion on settlement in the next fiscal year. He said two-thirds of this amount will be used on settlements in the Jordan valley, the Golan, Kiryat Arba and Ma'ale Adumim. The rest will be spent on settlement in mountainous areas.

TULKARM MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES GET RAISE

TULKARM — Tulkarm municipal employees will get a 20.5 percent pay increase. This decision was reached at the City Council meeting headed by Mayor Hilmi Hanoun. This increase coincides with a recent Israeli decision to raise salaries of all West Bank state employees following the recent devaluation in the shekel and price increases on basic goods.

COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION BOARD

JERUSALEM — The Executive Committee of the Council of Higher Education in the West Bank announced the appointment of new officers. The new president is Dr Anton, and Dr Mohammed Nasser al-Din is appointed vice president, Dr Shafiq Ayyash treasurer, and Hassan al-Qiq secretary.

Dr Gabi Baramki, Dr Sharif Kanana, Dr Mohammed Saqr, Dr Mahmoud Zahar, Dr Adib Qairi, Diab Ayyoush and Ibrahim Tawil are members.

WORKERS' DEMANDS FROM UNION

RAMALLAH — A delegation of union workers delivered a petition signed by 325 construction workers in the West Bank to the General Union of Workers Syndicates in Nablus, demanding that the Union allow more members to join, to collect all dues, return fired workers and establish workers' committees. The petition was handed to GUWS head — Adel Ghanem.

MORE CHOLERA IN GAZA

GAZA — A new cholera case was discovered in Gaza. This is the sixth case reported in four days.

WATER AND ELECTRICITY PRICE INCREASE

The Israeli Knesset Finance Committee approved a decision to increase water prices by 7.2 percent and electricity by 18.3 percent. The committee will discuss next week the possibility of adding another 12 percent to the water prices.

BETTER SCHOOLS!

HEBRON — The head of Hebron's education department, Mohammed Ja'abari, asked the Israeli military education office for improvement in the city's educational system.

The improvements include building more classes and higher pay for teachers. The military officer agreed in principle to grant a license for classes to be taught in an orphanage school in Hebron.

HOSPITAL HEADS ASK FOR PAY INCREASE

RAMALLAH — Hospital and health department heads in the West Bank asked the Israeli military government to increase salaries of employees in light of the recent economic developments.

ELIA ON WEST BANK

Shlomo Elia, head of the Israeli 'civil administration', said Israel's share in the West Bank budget has dropped from 45 to 42 percent. The number of persons receiving welfare help has dropped to 3000, he said.

October 28, 1983

NEW SETTLEMENTS

Knesset member Yacob Sour revealed Israeli government plans to establish 15 new military settlements in the occupied territories this year.

PALESTINIAN JOURNALISTS SUPPORT PLO

JERUSALEM — The Arab Journalists Association in Jerusalem released a statement urging the preservation of the PLO's legitimate rule and condemning all attempts to divide it or establish a new organisation.

CULTURAL EVENT AT IBRAHIMIYA COLLEGE

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian cultural event attended by a large crowd was held at Ibrahimiya College, October 28. Nationalist songs and poetry reading were part of the programme.

PALESTINIAN DABKEH IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM — The Palestinian Working Womens Committee held a Palestinian *dabkeh* festival in the Chamber of Commerce halls. Jerusalem-based clubs participated in the dance while West Bank clubs were not able to attend for unspecified reasons.

WEST GERMANY STAYS DEPORTATION

WEST BERLIN — West Germany's interior minister said a decision to deport 470 Palestinian refugees to Lebanon has been delayed because of the "current circumstances in Lebanon." West Germany has rejected a plea by the refugees to be allowed to stay.

CARS DAMAGED

BIR ZEIT — Unknown vandals damaged windshields of cars owned by Bir Zeit residents and a Bir Zeit bus. There were attempts to burn privately owned cars, but residents extinguished the blazes immediately.

STORES CLOSE

NABLUS — Two stores on Faysal Street owned by Ahmad Besyoni and Zuhair Qumheih were ordered closed by the military government for three months, after youths threw stones at Israeli military vehicles in their vicinity. Two soldiers were injured and a truck window broken in an incident the same day.

STUDENT JAILED AND FINED

NABULS — The Israeli military court in Nablus sentenced Ittaf Abu Ghdeib, a student at Najah

University, to six-and-a-half months suspended jail term. She was also fined IS30,000 on charges of demonstrating against the occupation last April.

October 29, 1983

STUDENTS TWIN

NABLUS — Najah University Student Council received an invitation to twin with the British National Union of Students.

Najah University, Nablus, saw several of its students sentenced and arrested this week for charges related to demonstrations last spring and for raising the Palestinian flag. On October 31, the University's student council received an invitation to twin with the British National Union of Students. / Garo photo

Najah Student Council president, Adon Milhem, welcomed the invitation saying it indicates the " respect people of the world have for the Palestinian people's right to live decently."

UNIVERSITY STUDENT ARRESTED

Four Najah University students, all residents of Balata refugee camp, were arrested after their houses were searched.

The Palestinian flag was raised on a mosque in the city market of Nablus.

BRUSH FIRE IN TULKARM

TULKARM — Almost 100 trees were burnt in a forest between Tulkarm and Anabta. The trees were the property of the agriculture department.

October 30, 1983

NEW ZIONIST PARTY UNDER EITAN

TEL AVIV — Former Israeli chief-of-staff Rafael Eitan established a new party last night. The party, Tromit, draws support from small militaristic factions in the labour movement and is expected to be closely aligned to the Tehiya party.

Eitan said at the first meeting of the new party that Israelis should be encouraged to settle everywhere.

OLIVE OIL EXPORTS

TULKARM — Olive farmers in Tulkarm received permission to export olive oil and olives to Jordan and other areas.

The amount of olive oil to be exported this year dropped to less than half last year's total: in 1982, 1309 tons were exported, compared to 500 tons this year. Olive exports, however, increased from 500 20-litre cans last year to 700 this year.

NEW POW CAMP IN SOUTH LEBANON

BEIRUT — The Lebanese *Al Safir* newspaper reported October 30, that the Israeli army recently established a new detention center for Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners-of-war in an area called "Hell Valley" east of Ansar camp.

The paper quoted a former inmate of the new camp who said the jail is surrounded by thick brick walls, 10 layers of barbed wire and Israeli tanks.

The camp is built on a 400 square meter area and has only one entrance. The paper said there is only one doctor, who is also a prisoner, treating the sick. It said the camp was divided into quarters 40 metres long each, with a big yard used as an exercise area.

The prisoner reported that the decision to build the new camp was made after 70 Ansar POW's escaped, August 8. It said 10 days after the escape the "dangerous elements" among the Ansar prisoners were transferred to the new camp. No Israeli soldiers enter the camp, which has 2000 Palestinian and Lebanese detainees whom the Israelis refuse to grant POW status, the detainee said.

PALESTINIAN YOUTH SENTENCED

HAIFA — The Israeli district court in Haifa sentenced five residents of Arrabeh, the Galilee, to 18 months each for membership in an organisation they called 'The Popular Front — Arrabeh.'

Israel Radio said the five were accused of burning car tyres and attempting to blow up water pipes.

October 31, 1983

CURFEW ON BALATA CAMP

A curfew was imposed on Balata refugee camp, near Nablus, following a Molotov attack on an Israeli military vehicle passing near the camp, according to Israeli Radio. No report of casualties was given.

ARAB YOUTHS SENTENCED

Radio Israel said the military court in Ramallah sentenced three Arab youths to two-and-a-half-years on charges of throwing stones and fire bombs at Israeli vehicles, setting rubber tyres on fire and writing anti-Israeli graffiti.

ISRAELI CURRICULUM RACIST

TEL AVIV — Most of the books used in Israeli schools portray Arabs in a negitive way and usually downgrade them as a human beings, Prof Daniel Bertal, a lecturer in the College of Education at the Hebrew University, said.

Speaking in a seminar at Tel Aviv University, Bertal said a survey of teachers' attitudes towards Arabs revealed that most of them are extremists when compared with other groups. He said 71 percent of them support settlement policy and 61 percent oppose withdrawal from the occupied territories.

He said officials at the ministry of education in Israel draw up curricula from a political perspective.

PRISON CONDITIONS DETERIORATING

NAZARETH — Lawyer Walid Fahoum reported on the health of some of political prisoners at Ramle jail following a visit this week.

Political prisoner Yusef Adlibly is suffering from blood clots in his legs and needs immediate surgery, the report said. It added that other prisoners, including Ali Shaqour, Omar Sielowie, Abd al-Rahim Iraqi and Rajeh Bashar, are also suffering from different illnesses and need medical attention.

PAY DECREASE IN SPITE OF INCREASE

JENIN — The 20 percent pay increase ordered for the education department employees in the West Bank was not enough to bring the employees' salary to what it was last month, representatives said. The employees complained the salary that used to be worth JD140 now equals JD100.

HAKAWATI RENTS THEATRE

JERUSALEM — The "Hakawati" theatre company signed a rental agreement for the old al-Nuzha cinema theatre. They will use it as their permanent headquarters. The company will renovate the building that was burnt down and expect to start shows there early next year.

On November 2, 1917, Lord Arthur Balfour (right, pictured with Chaim Weitzmann), Great Britain's foreign minister, wrote to Lord Rothschild expressing Cabinet support for the establishment of a "Jewish homeland" in Palestine. The 'Balfour Declaration' became the central document on which Zionist colonisation of the country was based.

SUCCESSFUL ESCAPE FROM ANSAR

MOSCOW — Radio Moscow reported that a group of Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners escaped from Ansar detention camp in South Lebanon by getting through the barbed wire. Moscow said a curfew was immediately imposed on the area and other prisoners were interrogated to learn how the escape happened.

COLLEGE STUDENTS REJECT COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

KALANDIA — A meeting for student representatives of two year institutes and colleges was held to discuss the comprehensive exams ordered by Jordan and the 'civil administration' as a requirement to graduate from these institutes. The representatives urged all students to continue with their boycott of the exams.

PALESTINIAN ON TRIAL FOR IS10 FIND

BEER SHEBA — A 21-year-old Palestinian man was tried in Beer Sheba for finding IS 10 two years ago and not reporting it to the police. The Beer Sheba district judge reprimanded the city police for spending all this time to bring such a case to court. He said the police could have handled it differently. The judge fined the Palestinian IS10.

OLD CITY RESIDENT HARASSED

JERUSALEM — Israeli settlers in the Old City stoned the house of Haj Mousa Khalis in Bab al-Silsaleh as part of a campaign to force him to leave his house. Khalis said he has been regularly harrassed by extremists and has never received police protection even though he has always informed them of attacks.

SCHOOLS BUGGED

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military installed listening devices in classrooms of two schools in Qalqiliya. Students and city residents protested this act.

November 1, 1983

NABLUS LIBRARY RAIDED

NABLUS — The Nablus public library was raided by Israeli soldiers and a number of art works by Ismael Shamout and others were confiscated along with several books.

The library which has 48,000 volumes is the biggest and oldest in the West Bank. It was raided two years ago and 2800 books on the Palestine problem were confiscated.

POSTERS OUTRAGE ISRAELIS

GAZA — The Israeli deputy coordinator of the occupied territories tore down several Palestinian posters hung in a cloth factory here while on tour along with other military men in the factory area. The military men took the identity card of the factory owner and ordered him to appear at the Israeli military headquarters.

AIRPORT RUNWAY IN LEBANON

SOUTH LEBANON — Reports from South Lebanon said Israel has finished the first runway of an airport they are constructing in Khayyoum, South Lebanon. Four more runways are currently under construction.

TWO TEACHERS DISMISSED

JENIN — Lamia Taher, a teacher at al-Zahra high school, and Jamal Assafreh from Silat al-Dhahr high school here received dismissals from the Israeli military governorate dated November 1. No reasons were given or the firings.

TRADE UNIONS TAX HELP

JERUSALEM — Trade Unions in Jerusalem offered free help to members and non-members with tax problems.

WATER PRICES UP

The Israeli Knesset finance committee approved an 11 percent water price increase. The committee raised rates by 18 percent two weeks ago.

Businesspeople Slam Latest Kollek Grab Threat

Shopkeepers around the station behind the Damascus Gate Building in East Jerusalem, the Islamic *waqf* and the Arab Chamber of Commerce protested, this week, against reports of a Jerusalem municipality plan to raze the area and build a park and square. Municipal officials denied the charge.

Eleven shopkeepers and stand owners sent a letter, October 29, to the municipality expressing "surprise" at construction plans, which they learned about only two weeks ago.

Farhat Ahmad Abu Madi, a barber, told *Al Fajr* that Teddy Kollek's Jerusalem municipality published an advertisement on June 16 in three Israeli Hebrew newspapers giving two months for objections to the plan to be submitted. Abu Madi said that the shopkeepers do not read Hebrew. No objections were filed.

The shopkeepers statement said that the changes in the central bus station have "no justification" and will deprive shopkeepers of their livelihoods.

The Islamic *waqf* (charitable foundation) which owns the Damascus Gate Building and the bus station wrote separately to the municipality and demanded the cancellation of the plans.

In their October 15 letter they said that it is forbidden, from a religious point of view, to make any changes in the status of *waqf* property.

Waqf engineer Adnan Husseini said the zoning committee in the Jerusalem municipality notified the *waqf* that they will discuss this matter in a special session, but no date has been set. The Jerusalem Arab municipality had rented the bus station for 30 years in 1953. The agreement expired October 14.

The Chamber of Commerce statement said, October 30, that there is already a big park surrounding the Old City, opposite the *waqf* building. "The garden which will replace the Bus Station will only be suitable for the unemployed and drunk," a C of C source said.

Damascus Gate bus station: A landmark site to be moved.

The statement noted that Israeli officials in the Jerusalem Municipal Zoning Department are implementing a policy of freezing, as far as possible, areas in Jerusalem to use as reserves. Owners are prevented from exploiting plots for commercial or residential purposes in Sheikh Jarah and Wadi Joz, they said.

Morris Zalka, the municipality's advisor on Arab affairs, told *Al Fajr* that no demolition will be carried out in the area but that a new bus station will be built near the Notre Dame Hotel in the former no-man's land between East and West Jerusalem. Zalka called the present bus station located near Salah al-Din Street "dangerous."

He stated, "We will not confiscate the land from the *waqf*, despite the fact that we have the right to confiscate the land for 'public use.' " Zalka said plans need "many years" for implementation.

AL FAJR INTERVIEWS ADVOCATE MI'ARI

From Prison to Town Arrest

Advocate Mohammed Mi'ari, 41, chairman of the Committee for the Defence of Prisoners, was released on bail, October 27, after 10 days detention on charges of contacting PLO officials during the UN Conference on the Question of Palestine, in Geneva last September. On the same day he was given a town arrest order for six months.

Mi'ari is accused of violating Israel's Emergency Defence Regulations (1945) by conducting "working sessions" with the PLO representatives. The charges stem from the allegations that the lawyer met PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat and Chairman of the PLO Political Department Farouq Kaddoumi in Geneva. Mi'ari denied these charges and asserts he behaved in the conference "like the other Israelis and Palestinians."

In an exclusive interview with *Al Fajr*, he said he considered he was arrested for "political reasons." . . . . . .

Al Fajr: **What happened in court?**

Mi'ari: After 48 hours of initial police detention, the magistrates court in Haifa decided, October 20, to extend my detention for eight days after Judge Salem Jubran said that the police had a secret report. My lawyers, Hashem Khatib and Amnon Zikhroni, filed an appeal to the central court in Haifa. The court met, October 24, and after examining the prosecution's material, issued an order that if there is no evidence before the court after the eight days of detention, the court will not extend the detention again.

When the period of detention was expired, I was released. One hour before my release, I was taken to police headquarters in Haifa where the officer of the Special Tasks Division handed me a town arrest order for six months, signed by General Amir Dror, commander of the northern district. Under it I am prevented from leaving Haifa during the day and ordered to report to the police twice a day. I am also forbidden to leave my home at night. . . . . .

I think that the aim of the arrest is to scare Israeli as well as Palestinian residents from continuing talks with the PLO. They will not achieve this. The evidence for this is that Gideon Spiro, of the Israeli Committee in Solidarity with Bir Zeit University, sent a letter to the attorney general (Yitzhak Zamir) asking him to send the police to arrest him (Spiro) because he had participated in the Geneva conference on the Palestinian cause.

All those who support peace between Israelis and Palestinians, such as Mattityahu Peled, the reserve general, advocate Amnon Zikhroni, Uri Avneri, member of the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Council, and Yossi Amnai, secretary of Ghboulit in the Negev, protested against my arrest. I appeal to all those to continue supporting other cases.

Al Fajr: **Would you like to comment on the UN conference on the Palestinian cause?**

Mi'ari: It was a very important conference which attracted all supporters of the Palestinian cause. The conference did not give a final solution to the Palestinian cause because the main countries which have direct concerns with the Palestinian cause boycotted the conference, such as the Europeans, the US and Israel. I hope that next year these countries will participate in the conference and reach a just and stable solution which would offer peace for all, including Israel.

Doctors Condemn Harassment of Colleague

The Physicians' Union in the West Bank issued a statement, October 15, demanding that the Israeli authorities rescind a decision to try Dr Jihad Awnallah, head of surgery at Rafidiya Hospital in Nablus, on charges of concealing evidence from the police.

Dr Awanallah, 41, who worked in the hospital for 17 years before being fired last August, was accused of concealing a bullet which he extricated from the body of Ilham Abu Za'rour, a Nablus resident who was shot dead by a settler, July 26. At the time the Palestinian physician, who heads the Nablus branch of the physicians union, was imprisoned for four days. Two days after his release he was given a dismissal notice and a month later was notified tht he is to be fired on charges of "concealing evidence from the police."

The physician's statement refuted the authorities' accusations asserting that he kept the bullet with him on request of the deputy director of the hospital. The statement also accused the authorities of "fabricating" the charge in order to get rid of him.

Dr Awnallah told *Al Fajr* that he never intended to hide the bullet from the police. "I would have hidden it only if I wanted to protect the settler who shot the girl," he said. He explained that after he took the bullet from Ilham's chest, the hospital offices were closed, hence he was compelled to keep it and turn it over to the police when they came to investigate the case. Dr Jamal Mas'oud Khayat, deputy director of the hospital, testified before the police that he had asked Dr Awnallah to keep the bullet with him in order to avoid it being lost, and to turn it over when the police came.

Dr Awnallah told *Al Fajr* that after leaving the hospital he was busy at the union's office, where he was to give a lecture. Since the police had not come to the hospital, he left a message in the emergency room informing them of his whereabouts.

When the police came to the union's office, he turned over the bullet, which he had been keeping in a special bag locked in his car. The police, however, detained him and obtained a four-day detention order.

Nazareth lawyer Walid Fahoum, who represents Dr Awnallah, told his client that he does not believe that there is any justification for trying the physician. On October 1, he asked the Israeli military governor's legal advisor to close the file, on the grounds that there was no evidence.

On October 10, the lawyer asked for a postponement of the trial until he receives an answer from the Israeli legal advisor.

Dr Awnallah told *Al Fajr* that the authorities took advantage of the incident in order to get rid of him. He explained that during the poisoning scare, last March, he was given a warning for treating people who complained of poisoning symptoms. He also had been target of the authorities for his membership in the union, he said.

The physicians union statement expressed "astonishment" at the "authorities' fabrication of charges against a respected physician." They also called on the military authorities to stop harassing and intervening in internal affairs of Palestinian physicians and their union.

Dr Salah Bustani, secretary of the physicians union, said they are demanding Dr Awnallah be allowed to return to work.

Dr Awnallah demanded that government-employed physicians be given immunity against arbitrary actions, such as the one against him. "How can one work knowing there is no protection from being thrown in jail for no reason at all?" he asked.

Dr Awnallah:

Imprisoned for doing his job.